

JSS: rl  
RECORDED 100-20396-7  
5-25-42

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WENDELL BURGE  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: REVERSED DONALD L. WEST  
LEAVENWILLE, GEORGIA

Reference is made to your memorandum dated April 3, 1942, your reference, W.B.C.U.F.al: 140-7-1170.

Transmitted herewith are the following investigative reports concerning the above captioned subject:

The report of Special Agent Gerald B. Crawford, dated July 17, 1941, at Atlanta, Georgia, in the case entitled, "Reverend Donald L. West; Internal Security-C."

The report of Special Agent S. D. Durfee, dated March 16, 1942, at Atlanta, Georgia, in the case entitled, "Donald Lee West, with aliases, Reverend Donald L. West, Don West; Internal Security-C."

Any additional reports received by this Bureau concerning the subject will be made available to you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
M A I L E D 1  
★ MAY 26 1942 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/02 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:GMF:al

146-7-1170

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 3, 1942

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Flendon	.....
Mr. Holloman	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
llcs	.....

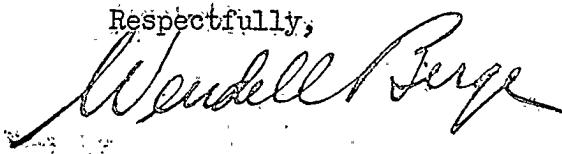
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER,  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: West, Rev. Donald L.  
Meansville, Georgia

Mr. L. M. C. Smith, Chief of the Special Defense Unit, has forwarded a file containing an abstract of information concerning the above entitled subject who appears to be a citizen of the United States.

It is requested that any investigative reports and other background information contained in your files relative to the subject be forwarded to the Criminal Division, and that you keep this Division advised of any information received by you in the future on the subject.

Respectfully,

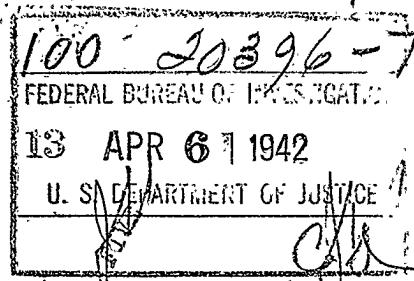


WENDELL BERGE,  
Assistant Attorney General.



RECORDED

Wendell Berge  
13 APR 6 1942



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-1695** vbw

REPORT MADE AT <b>HUNTINGTON, WEST VA.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/15/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/25/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>CLARENCE H. CORKRAN</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Rabbi LAWRENCE A. BLOCK, resides at 530 West Eleventh Avenue, Huntington, W. Va. Huntington Field Division files contain no information regarding Rabbi LAWRENCE A. BLOCK.

BRUCE

**REFERENCES:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3/16/42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

**DETAILS:** AT HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

The Huntington City Directory for the year of 1941 indicates that 530 West Eleventh Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia, is a vacant lot. However, the Crisscross Directory for the city of Huntington reflects that Rabbi LAWRENCE A. BLOCK resides at 530 West Eleventh Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia.

The indices of the Huntington Field Division were searched for information relative to LAWRENCE A. BLOCK with negative results. There being no further investigation to be conducted in this District, this case is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

• REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN •

DATE 3/11/82 BY SP-1/GSR/PSK

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. J. Kline</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES MADE: <u>100-1695</u>	120396-8	E. COIN
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Atlanta 2 - Huntington	118 APR 17 1942	INDEXED

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-3589

REPORT MADE AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA	DATE WHEN MADE 4/17/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/17/42	REPORT MADE BY S. J. DRAYTON, SAC JL
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, WITH ALIASES.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

CHECK OF INDICES OF THIS OFFICE FAILS TO REFLECT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN REFERENCE REPORT WHO RESIDE WITHIN TERRITORY OF THIS FIELD DIVISION.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

REPORT OF SPECIAL AGENT S. D. DURFEE  
DATED MARCH 16, 1942 AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

**DETAILS:**

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

A CHECK OF THE INDICES OF THE INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION FAILS TO REFLECT ANY INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MENTIONED IN REFERENCE REPORT WHO RESIDE WITHIN THE TERRITORY COVERED BY THIS FIELD DIVISION.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

**DATE 3/11/02 BY SP1/CSS/PLK**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED	100-26396-9	RECORDED	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	APR 22 1942		
5 - BUREAU 3 - ATLANTA 3 - INDIANAPOLIS APR 22 1942 300 300	COPY IN		

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

NY FILE NO. **100-22129**

**JV**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/25/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/17/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>R. R. GRANVILLE</b>
<b>TITLE</b> <b>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases</b>		<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

The address, Room 704, 30 Irving Place, New York City, listed to **GENERAL GAUGE & TOOL COMPANY**.

**R U C**

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent S. B. Durfee, dated March 16, 1942, at Atlanta, Georgia.

**DETAILS:**

A check of the address record of New York City indicates that Room 704, 30 Irving Place, New York City, is listed to the **GENERAL GAUGE & TOOL COMPANY** of New York City.

A review of the indices of the New York Field Division failed to indicate any information relative to the **GENERAL GAUGE & TOOL COMPANY**.

It appears that any further investigation relative to an individual bearing the initials "H. P.", Room 704, 30 Irving Place, New York City would be impractical and unproductive. Accordingly, no further investigation is being made by the New York Field Office and this case is being

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

**DATE 3/1/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK**

**REMOVED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>P. C. Starnes</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>1942-3</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>100-20376-10</b>	RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Atlanta 2 New York		APR 26 1942	
<b>COPY IN FILE</b>			

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Form No. 1**  
**THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-1504

REPORT MADE AT DENVER, COLORADO	DATE WHEN MADE 5/2/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/2/42	REPORT MADE BY HARRY W. MCMLILEEN	JR
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY			SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED 165/152

### SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Request to check BEN and ISABEL HOAGLAND believed to refer to BENJAMIN C. HAGGLUND and wife, Las Animas, Colorado. HAGGLUND, a printer by trade and formerly of Texas, moved to Colo. in the fall of 1940 and thereafter employed in local print shop. Previous investigation by Denver Office to date shows Subject at times publishes poems of Subject. HAGGLUND has shown anti-British attitude but no definite subversive activities developed to date.

→ RUC →

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, Atlanta, Georgia  
3-16-42.

**DETAILS:**

It is noted in reference report on Page 29 among a list of correspondents of Subject that he had received letter from BEN and ISABEL HOAGLAND, 322 Locust Avenue, Las Animas, Colorado, dated August 9, 1941. The Denver Office was requested to check such names for possible subversive activities.

It is believed that reference is made to one BENJAMIN C.  
HAGGLUND of Las Animas.

In a review of the file No. 100-407, which was previously opened on HAGGLUND, it is noted that the same was opened on a report.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>H. H. Nichols</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
		100-28396		RECORDED & INDEXED
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5 - Bureau	2 - Atlanta	MAY 22 1942		
2 - Denver				

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-2794

REPORT MADE AT SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/6/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/6/42	REPORT MADE BY G. W. STEIN, SAC RS
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject not listed in St. Paul indices.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 3/16/42.

DETAILS: WEST not listed in the St. Paul indices.

---REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF---

ORIGIN

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/02 BY SP1/CSK/PSK

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Paul de</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: <i>6 JUN 12 1942</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5--Bureau 2--Atlanta 2--St. Paul <i>1 copy - 1</i>		100-2022-12		
		<i>100-2022-12</i>		
		<i>100-2022-12</i>		
		<i>100-2022-12</i>		

received from the Houston Office dated August 18, 1940, by Special Agent R. H. HOSTENY entitled, "HAGGLUND PRESS, SAN BENITO, TEXAS." It is further noted that copies of this report were sent to the Atlanta Office by the Houston Field Division.

In this report of Agent HOSTENY on Page 3 it was stated that HAGGLUND, then residing in Texas, was presently printing and distributing throughout the country a book of Communistic poems written by DON WEST of Cartersville, Georgia.

From later investigation concerning HAGGLUND and his wife it was determined that he came to Las Animas in September or October of 1940 from Texas. HAGGLUND was born September 11, 1908, at Dugdale, Polk County, Minnesota. He married his present wife on May 10, 1938, at Miami, Florida.

HAGGLUND was first employed in Las Animas at the Bent County Democrat as a printer, being known as a floorman, his work consisting of setting up advertisements and making up press work. Aside from his work at the local newspaper, HAGGLUND apparently published poems written by himself and his wife. He apparently also has published a copy of "Toil and Hunger" by DON WEST since coming to Colorado.

The file further reflects that both HAGGLUND and his wife ISABEL have written to various newspapers in the vicinity of their home articles published in the "Public Volume", which articles are of an anti-British nature.

It is further noted that HAGGLUND was dismissed from his job at the Bent County Democrat in the latter part of 1941.

To date no definite un-American activities have been found against HAGGLUND and his wife, but it is very apparent that both have anti-British sentiments. Additional investigation is being conducted by the Denver Office. If pertinent facts are developed that would interest the Atlanta Office in instant case of DONALD WEST, same will be forwarded.

~ REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN ~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated at Atlanta, Georgia

File No. 100-7192

Report made at Chicago, Illinois	Date when made 6-15-42	Period for which made 6-1-42	Report made by JOHN E. JULSRUD JEJ:DVR
-------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------	---

**Title:** *6*  
 DONALD LEE WEST with aliases Reverend Donald L. West INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
 and Don West

**Synopsis of Facts:** Information contained in Chicago Field Division files relative to individuals who have corresponded with subject set out.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3-16-42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

**DETAILS:** At Chicago, Illinois:

Reference report sets out a lead for the Chicago Field Division to note the results of the mail cover contained in reference report and furnish the Atlanta office any information contained in our files pertaining to the individuals residing within the Chicago Field Division territory and to conduct any further investigation deemed appropriate.

Subject WEST is referred to in report of Special Agent H. R. SPLENDORE dated 8-20-42 entitled HARVEY O'CONNOR; JESSIE LLOYD O'CONNOR, Internal Security - C, wherein it is shown that the subjects of that investigation who are large contributors to the American Peace Mobilization as well as other Communist Front Organizations had issued a check to DONALD WEST in the amount of \$5.00 which individual is presumably the subject.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE *3/25/08* BY *SP/AS/MS*

App. and for:	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in these spaces	RECORDED
50 JUL 18 1942 <i>204</i>		100-20396-13	INDEXED
Copies of this Report:		JUN 18 1942	
⑤ - Bureau 3 - Atlanta 3 - Knoxville (Inf.) 3 - Chicago		<i>4-1</i> <i>4-1</i> <i>4-1</i> <i>4-1</i>	
COPIES DESTROYED <i>4-2-59 #16</i>			

WEST is also referred to in report of Special Agent JOHN C. BILLS dated 2-7-41 at Chicago, Illinois entitled "Workers' Alliance", Internal Security - R where he is listed as a state organizer in Kentucky in the Workers' Alliance and a staunch supporter of the Communist party ticket during the 1936 elections which information is gained from the National Republic Lettergram, report number 46.

Subject WEST also is referred to in report of Special Agent JOHN C. BILLS dated 4-2-41 at Chicago entitled, "Communist Party Activities, Chicago area," Internal Security - C where Reverend DONALD WEST, Congregational Church, Meansville, Georgia is shown an introducer of the American People's Meeting for Peace which was to have been held in New York City, 4-5,6-41 which information was furnished by an informant of this office.

Colonel WILLIAM HENRY HUFF, referred to on page 29 of reference report is referred to in the files of the Chicago Field Division. HUFF is Chief Counsel of the "Abolish Peonage" Committee and is practicing law in Chicago. He obtained the title of Colonel through membership in the military order of the guard. HUFF was born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia.

The report of Special Agent E. L. SWEET, dated 10-20-41 entitled "WILLIAM HENRY HUFF, with aliases, Information Concerning," shows that HUFF has offered to furnish information to this office relative to current activity among the colored population in this area. HUFF has taken an active interest in alleged peonage cases in the South.

HUFF is also referred to in report of Special Agent J. C. BILLS dated 10-13-41 at Chicago, Illinois, entitled, "C.I.O. Provisional Counsel, Internal Security - R" wherein HUFF'S name appears as a member of the special committee to nominate a new contact for the Office of Midwest Representative of the International Labor Defense, which committee was appointed by BOB WIRTZ. It is also noted that HUFF is referred to in a copy of a letter from the Bureau to the Atlantic Field Division dated 7-30-41 as having sent to the Bureau a letter regarding a possible peonage case as Chief Counsel of the Abolish Peonage Committee of the International Labor Defense.

HUFF is also referred to in report of Special Agent LEON O. PRIOR dated 2-2-41 at Atlanta, Georgia entitled HARDY LEE SCOTT, with aliases, Espionage - C as being Chief Counsel of the Abolish Peonage Committee of the International Labor Defense, Chicago.

No further investigation is being conducted at the Chicago Field Division relative to the above mentioned individuals or organizations as such.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Memphis, Tennessee  
June 16, 1942

BKA:MEM  
100-1015

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

It is noted in report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, dated March 16, 1942 at Atlanta, Georgia in the above entitled matter, in which Atlanta is the office of origin, that the Memphis Field Division was requested to note the results of a mail cover and furnish to the Atlanta Office any information contained in the Memphis files pertaining to the individuals who reside in their Field Division and who are corresponding with the subject and should conduct any further investigation deemed appropriate.

It is further noted, in the above mentioned report of Agent DURFEE, that the subject had received mail from ALVA W. TAYLOR, 101 Bowling Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

Attention is called to the report of Special Agent (A) K. E. COMMONS, dated at Memphis, Tennessee April 27, 1942, entitled THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE; INTERNAL SECURITY - R, of which the Atlanta Field Division has copies.

Agent COMMONS' report reflects, on pages 10 and 11, the name of MRS. ALVA W. TAYLOR as being the wife of the Chairman of the Nashville Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. On page 25 of Agent COMMONS' report, ALVA W. TAYLOR of Nashville, Tennessee, is mentioned as having been elected Secretary and Treasurer for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Inasmuch as this is the only information contained in the files of the Memphis Field Division, concerning ALVA W. TAYLOR and since at the present time no further investigation is deemed necessary, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

307

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Very truly yours  
INDEXED  
JUN 19 1942

E. P. KUHN  
Special Agent in Charge

100-20391-14

CC Atlanta  
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FILE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-645 JA

REPORT MADE AT BIRMINGHAM	DATE WHEN MADE 6-19-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-12-42	REPORT MADE BY HARVEY D. WALKER
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: SAM HALL, former publisher and editor of the SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC at Birmingham, Alabama, defunct Communist mouthpiece in the Birmingham area, which ceased publication in September, 1941, left Birmingham, Alabama, shortly thereafter and is reportedly in the United States Navy at the present time. MIKE ROSS associated with various Communist Front organizations in Birmingham, Ala. now the international representative of the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union, residing at Bessemer, Alabama.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, dated March 16, 1942 at Atlanta.

DETAILS: A review of reference report reveals that subject forwarded mail to Mr. SAM HALL, Box 2032, Birmingham, Alabama.

A review of Birmingham file entitled SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC reveals that SAM HALL was employed as Editor and Publisher of that paper until its collapse in September, 1941. SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC, during its period of publication in the Birmingham area was known to be the mouthpiece for radical organizations and the Communist Party Workers in the Birmingham vicinity. HALL, as Editor, wrote a column in this paper indicating his leftist views. There is no indication in the file, however, that HALL was actually a member of the Communist Party.

It is reported that shortly after the SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC ceased publication in 1941 HALL left the Birmingham area.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>L. D. Walker</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>L. D. Walker</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Atlanta 2 - Birmingham		JUN 29 1942

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Mr. GEORGE D. PATTERSON, Attorney, Comer Building, Birmingham, Alabama, who handled some of the legal problems involved with the operation of the SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC advised they recently received a letter from HALL from Norfolk, Virginia indicating that HALL was either about to join the Navy or was already in the United States Navy.

The reference report further indicates that the subject in this matter wrote to Mr. and Mrs. MIKE ROSS at the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE in Birmingham, Alabama.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent J. CULLEN KENNEDY, dated May 15, 1942 entitled MIKE ROSS, WITH ALIASES, ET AL; INTERNAL SECURITY - C. It is indicated therein that MIKE ROSS came to this area and worked for a short time for the SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC prior to its collapse. During that time he was known to have been active in the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF HUMAN WELFARE, THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG SOUTHERNERS and with LABORS NON PARTISAN LEAGUE, all Communist Front organizations in this area. ROSS is now known to be the International Representative of the International Mine, Mill and Smelters Workers Union and was recently at 1825½ Carolina Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama. It is known that he is presently publishing a form of journal for that organization as part of his duties in this capacity.

In connection with the letter received by the subject from "BUDD Y. WEST, General Delivery, Birmingham, the Birmingham Field Division contains no information with regard to an individual by that name, although it is believed possible that this person may be DELLA WEST, wife of MIKE ROSS.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GA.

FILE NO. 100-3066

REPORT MADE AT PITTSBURGH, PA.	DATE WHEN MADE 6/26/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/24/42	REPORT MADE BY JAMES L. McGREEVY
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: The name M. G. MURRAY checked against the indices of the Pittsburgh Office with negative results.

- RUC -

Reference: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated at Atlanta, Georgia, March 16, 1942.

DETAILS: The name of M. G. MURRAY of Tionesta, Pa., as set forth in the mail cover results of reference report, was checked against the indices of the Pittsburgh Field Office without results.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/02 BY SP-1 GSK/BK

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. E. Thornton</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED 4/22/50 #16	COPIES OF THIS REPORT	100-20396-16	RECORDED
5 - Bureau	16		
2 - Atlanta			
2 - Pittsburgh			
COPIES IN FILE		JUN 26 1942	
5 JUL 1 1942		1942	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

LVLE. FILE NO. **100-789**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6/30/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/10, 16, 18, 19, 22/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>H. E. PRESCOTT</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, was</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Investigation and examination of Lexington City Directory 1937 edition, reflects that subject resided at 617 Cedar Street during the latter part of 1936 and early part of 1937 and had his business office at 103 South Broadway, Lexington, Kentucky, where he acted as Secretary for the Kentucky Workers Alliance. Further investigation failed to reflect any information of subject or any activity of subject in organization of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky. Subject never in attendance at Berea College therefore no information was available as to the subject's activity in their indices during the Harlan County coal strike.

- RUC -

**Reference:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3/16/42 at Atlanta.

**Details:** AT LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

The writer conducted the following investigation at the Lexington City library and examined City Directory from 1935 to 1938 and the only available information which could be ascertained was that subject was listed in the 1937 edition as residing at 617 Cedar Street and having offices at 103 South Broadway where he was acting in the capacity of Secretary for the Kentucky Workers Alliance. Examinations of all other editions from 1935 to 1938 met with negative results.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>H. E. Prescott</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Atlanta 2 Louisville		EX-100-789-17 COPYRIGHT 1942 JUL 2 1942 FBI - ATLANTA	

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

*DATE 3/17/02 BY SP2/CSK/bsc*

The writer attempted to obtain information relative to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky at the Lexington City library which met with negative results as this library has no information which deals with formation of any parties which does not approve of the form of Government which is now existing.

The following information was received from MR. VERNON GILES/COOPER who is subject in file #100-44 in the Louisville Field Division. MR. COOPER was interviewed by the reporting Agent at which time he advised that at the time of the organization of the Kentucky Workers Alliance he was President of this organization and that he recalls subject in this case as Secretary with business offices at 103 South Broadway in Lexington.

MR. COOPER was questioned relative to the existence of this organization at the present time at which time he advised that the Kentucky Workers Alliance had been incorporated into a national organization. When MR. COOPER was questioned as to with what national organization the Kentucky Workers Alliance had been incorporated he refused to give any further information.

It was further stated by MR. COOPER that subject remained in Lexington to the best of his knowledge only a very short period of time, during the organization of the Kentucky Workers Alliance, and at the present time he stated he did not know where subject was located.

At this time MR. COOPER failed to give any further information or to elaborate on the activity of the Kentucky Workers Alliance or to give any further information regarding subject in this case.

#### AT BEREAL, KENTUCKY

MISS JEAN ROBERT, assistant to the Registrar at Berea College, was interviewed relative to subject's activities at Berea College. After a search of her attendance records she advised the Agent that subject was never in attendance at Berea therefore the writer was unable to obtain any information relative to subject's activities while supposedly in attendance at this college.

Inasmuch as the subject in this case did not attend Berea college, their indices would not reflect the subject's activity, if any, during the Harlan County coal strike.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION

TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-3381

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-17-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-30-42	REPORT MADE BY L. O. PRIOR
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** F.O. Box 644, Sarasota, Fla., is rented by FLORA L. WEST. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. MULLINNIX and BARBARA WEST also receive mail in this box. No record of these individuals in Miami indices.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 3-16-42.

**DETAILS:**

By letter, dated April 2, 1942, the Postmaster at Sarasota, Florida, was requested to furnish the identities of all individuals receiving mail through Post Office Box 644.

In a letter, dated April 6, 1942, Postmaster L. O. RAGIN, Sarasota, Florida, advised that Post Office Box 644 was rented on July 2, 1941, in the name of FLORA L. WEST and that BARBARA WEST and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. MULLINNIX also get their mail at that box.

A check of the indices of the Miami Field Division fails to indicate any information concerning BARBARA WEST or Mr. and Mrs. W. B. MULLINNIX.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: FBI - Atlanta	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE L. O. PRIOR	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-559 LW

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-21-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-30-42	REPORT MADE BY JOHN E. KEEFE
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** JAMES N. CULBERTSON, Snow Spring Community, Adairsville, Ga., advises subject introduced Socialistic and Jehovah's Witness ideas in Snow Spring community near Adairsville, Ga., about 12 years ago. Subject reported to have had a following in the Snow Spring community from 1930 until about 1934, and has since that time lost most of this following. Subject said to visit MANUEL SUTTON who is described as active Jehovah Witness leader, and is said to have sectional meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses at his home at Snow Spring community. No evidence that MANUEL SUTTON or his family have Communistic tendencies. A. J. MATHEWS and S. M. PITTARD, both of Cassville, Ga., have no additional information on the activities of subject.

-P-

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, dated 3-16-42, at Atlanta, Ga.

**DETAILS:** AT ADAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA:

JAMES M. CULBERTSON, RFD #3, Snow Spring Community, advised that he has known subject for the past fifteen years. He stated that subject always had Socialistic ideas and that subject was expelled from Berry School, Rome, Georgia, because of his ideas. CULBERTSON stated that after subject was expelled from school, he came to the Snow Spring community and by canvassing the surrounding territory and holding meetings he spread Socialistic ideas in that neighborhood and for a period from about 1930 to about 1934 he had a considerable following in that locality. CULBERTSON stated that subject also, right from the outset, taught Jehovah's Witness doctrines along with the Socialistic theories

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *July 21 1942* BY *SC/CS/BSK*

Atlanta, 100-559

and that he converted MANUEL SUTTON and his family of Snow Spring community to his ideas. CULBERTSON stated that subject continued to visit the home of MANUEL SUTTON, who is distantly related to him, at Snow Spring community up until about two years ago. He stated that he had not seen subject in that neighborhood since that time.

CULBERTSON stated that MANUEL SUTTON and [redacted] as well as his sons-in-law, JEWEL EVERETT and HENRY COKER, were actively engaged in organizing Jehovah's Witness activities, and that they had meetings on the average of once or twice a week at MANUEL SUTTON's home in the Snow Spring community, and that at these meetings representatives of various Jehovah's Witness groups came from Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and other neighboring states.

CULBERTSON stated that he had seen [redacted] and [redacted] distributing Jehovah's Witness literature in Calhoun and Rome, Georgia, and also that he had seen JEWEL EVERETT distributing this literature in Calhoun, Georgia. CULBERTSON stated that he could not recall just exactly what subject had said during the time that he preached around the Snow Spring community, but said in substance that subject was opposed to the free school system and talked that labor should control all public utilities, and that in general the b6 working people should control things in this country. b7C

REV. R. C. KINSEY, pastor of the Baptist Church, Cassville, Georgia, and former pastor of the church at Snow Spring community, advised that MANUEL SUTTON, his wife and sons were active in Jehovah's Witness work, and that though they had formerly been members of his church, they had left his church about the time that subject first came into the Snow Spring community with his Socialistic ideas.

Mr. KINSEY stated that MANUEL SUTTON and [redacted] helped subject during the period of 1930 and 1931 when subject was spreading his Socialistic ideas and some of them did distribute copies of the Daily Worker in that locality. Mr. KINSEY said that he had not heard anything unfavorable about subject for several years, and as far as he knew subject was working on a farm near Cassville, Georgia. He stated that he had seen subject about a week previous in Cassville, Georgia.

AT CAESVILLE, GEORGIA:

S. M. PITARD who operates a general store, advised that subject had kept to himself for the past several months and that he had not heard anything specific about any further un-American activity on the part of subject. He stated that it had been rumored that subject had given a sermon at a colored church in Cassville, but he said that he was unable to give any more specific information about this. He said that subject was living with his wife and two

Atlanta, 100-559

children on a farm near Cassville, and that subject's mother and his brother PAUL were residing in a house near there. He advised that he would report to the Atlanta Field Division any unAmerican activity observed on the part of subject.

A. J. MATHEWS stated that he had not seen very much of subject for the past several months, and that he had no information to furnish about any further unAmerican activity on the part of subject. He advised that he would report to the Atlanta Field Division any unAmerican activity observed on the part of subject.

-FENDING-

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

- \* THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION, at Bethel, Ohio, will conduct appropriate investigation to determine the subject's activities in Bethel during the summer of 1940 as set forth in Bureau letter as noted in report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3-16-42.
- \* THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION, at Yale University, will interview [redacted] Divinity student, if deemed advisable, for any information he may have concerning the subject in instant case. b6 b7C
- \* THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Ellijay, Georgia, will contact LEE REECE for any information he may have concerning subject's activities.
- \* At Atlanta, Georgia, will ascertain the holder of P. O. Box 1535, and if deemed advisable will contact this individual for any information he may have concerning the subject and his activities.
- \* At Cassville, Georgia, will continue to recontact S. M. PITTARD and A. J. MATHEWS for any information they may develop concerning the subject's present activities.

-PENDING-

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Atlanta, Georgia

FILE NO. 100-3589

REPORT MADE AT Indianapolis, Indiana	DATE WHEN MADE 7-30-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-20-42	REPORT MADE BY PAUL A. ANDERSEN PAA:ED
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Individual possessing initials "H. S. K." is determined to be Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN, wife of Dr. HUGH A. KUHN, Hammond, Indiana. Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN is a practicing eye specialist and is associated with her husband, Dr. HUGH A. KUHN and Dr. SMITH at 112 Rimback Street, Hammond, Indiana. Subject is active in civic affairs, especially the "Open Forum" organization established for the purpose of bringing nationally known lecturers to Hammond. No evidence of actual association with any Communist group in Hammond, Indiana.

RUC

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3-16-42 dated at Atlanta, Georgia.  
Report of Special Agent in Charge S. J. DRAYTON dated 4-17-42 at Indianapolis, Indiana.

**DETAILS:** AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

On May 12, 1942, this office requested Mr. THOMAS J. MARTINSON, Chief of Police, Hammond, Indiana, to institute an investigation relative to the background and activities of the individual having the initials "H. S. K." in Hammond, Indiana.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/02 BY SP/CG/

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: M. R. Rutherford	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE RECEIVED	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 123710 20 APPROVED 17 AUG 3 1942 INDEXED
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On June 15, 1942 this office was in receipt of a letter from the Hammond, Indiana Police Department in which they advised that the individual with the initials "H. S. K." is Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN, the wife of Dr. HUGH A. KUHN, Hammond, Indiana. She was born in Chicago, Illinois and is 47 years old. Her father, Professor STIEGLITZ, now deceased, was a professor at the University of Chicago and was known to be liberal in his views. She also has a brother, Dr. EDWARD J. STIEGLITZ, last known address Garrett Park, Maryland. She is Jewish.

The letter further revealed that Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN is a practicing eye specialist and is associated in business with her husband, Dr. HUGH A. KUHN and Dr. SMITH at 112 Rimbach Street, Hammond, Indiana. Dr. HEDWIG is very active in civic affairs, especially the "Open Forum," an organization established for the purpose of bringing nationally known lecturers to the city and she has always been very liberal, almost bordering on the communistic, but never actually connected or associated with any Communistic or other radical group in Hammond, Indiana.

The said letter revealed that most of her social connections are in Chicago, Illinois.

The letter signed by Mr. HERBERT NEWKIRK, police officer of the Hammond, Indiana Police Department stated that Mr. NEWKIRK has personally known the subject for the past eighteen years and has never heard or known her to make any un-American statements.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-2820

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 8-3-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-22-42	REPORT MADE BY H. E. KOREMAN RGB
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject resided near Bethel, Ohio in 1940 and reported to have left this vicinity 11-12-40 for Rural Route No. 2, Maysville, Georgia. Was active in Communist circles in the Cincinnati Section of the Party and in the Peace Movements. He attended the Emergency Peace Mobilization held in Chicago on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, and 2, 1940 and addressed a rally sponsored by the Cincinnati Youth Committee against war on 11-11-40 in Cincinnati.

-RUC-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent S. D. Durfee dated 3-16-42 at Atlanta, Ga.

DETAILS:

Reference report requests an investigation of subject's activities in Bethel, Ohio during the summer of 1940.

A review of the Cincinnati files reflects that such investigation was conducted and reported in Cincinnati File 98-77, entitled "JACK PERRILLA, was; SABOTAGE", in which case New York City is the office of origin. A review of that file reflects that the Atlanta Field Division has been furnished copies of each report.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Seymour S. Owens, dated 4-14-41 at Cincinnati in that case, in which it is set forth that investigation by the Bethel, Ohio Police Department revealed that subject did reside near Bethel, but had moved to R.F.D. No. 2, Mainsville, or Maysville, Georgia.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. C. Suriano</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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5-Bureau 3-Atlanta 3-Cincinnati	17 AUG 5 - 1942	17 AUG 5 - 1942
51 AUG 27 1942		

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DATE 3/11/02 BY SP/16738

DONALD LEE WEST, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

The following is a summary of further information regarding subject contained in the files of the Cincinnati Field Division.

In file 100-15, entitled "COMMUNIST PARTY, COLUMBUS, OHIO: INTERNAL SECURITY (C)", Report of Special Agent R. J. Campbell dated October 8, 1940 at Cincinnati, sets forth information supplied by confidential informant [ ] and [ ] who attended the Emergency Peace Mobilization held at Chicago, Illinois on August 31, September 1 and 2, 1940. On page 12 of that report subject is listed as a Communist Party member with whom informants came in contact in Chicago, and of subject it is said, "Bethel, Ohio - Minister; writer for Daily Worker." b2 b7D

In Cincinnati file 100-2966 entitled "NOTES OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS [ ] and [ ] a memorandum of Special Agent S. H. Horton dated May 13, 1942, reflects that on December 9, 1941 Confidential Informant [ ] turned over a leaflet issued by the Cincinnati Youth Committee Against War, advertising speeches by REV. DONALD WEST and JOHN FOSTER. This leaflet [ ] by MARJORIE DOWERS, 2022 Western Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio in November of 1940. MARJORIE DOWERS is a prominent member of the Communist Party at Cincinnati. The leaflet is entitled "Now the job begins" and gives notice of a rally for peace and an armistice observance to be scheduled for Monday evening, November 11, 1940 at 8:15 o'clock at the Ninth Street Baptist Church, 21 W. Ninth Street, Cincinnati, the speakers to be Rev. DONALD WEST, on the subject, "We Must Keep Out", and JOHN FOSTER on the subject "I saw China Fight for Peace". This leaflet is being retained in the Cincinnati file but will be furnished to the Atlanta Field Office upon request.

In Cincinnati File No. 65-246 entitled "COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES IN CINCINNATI, OHIO; INTERNAL SECURITY - C", serial 37 thereof, which is a report of Special Agent S. H. Horton dated January 21, 1941, contains a report of Confidential Informant [ ] under date of November 7, 1940 at Cincinnati, which is as follows:

b2  
b7D

[ ] TOM and  
MARJORIE DOWERS, MARJORIE and MRS. THOMAS and FRED BIRCH were present. [ ] the CIO, and the APM. MARJORIE and Mrs. THOMAS [ ] that CARL LEVY is the local head man of the APM, and that the organization is doing quite well. There will be a meeting of the group at the Ninth Street Baptist Church Monday night, November 11; speakers, our old friend DON WEST, who we met through HAROLD PREECE in Chicago, and JOHN FOSTER, whom we haven't met and haven't heard of. FRED, who knows WEST quite well it seems, said WEST is an active organizer in Kentucky, or had been, and now was doing a good job from his Bethel Scatter."

DONALD LEE WEST, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Serial 68 in the same case is the report of Special Agent S. H. HORTON dated March 28, 1941 and contains reports by Confidential Informants [redacted] of his day to day activities with Communists. Under date of November 11, 1940 Confidential Informant [redacted] furnished the following information:

b2  
b7D

"At the Ninth Street Church we talked briefly with one DON WEST, an acquaintance I met in Chicago at the EPM meeting. Speakers were WEST (REV. DONALD), Bethel, Ohio and JOHN FOSTER (REV.), Cincinnati, Ohio. FOSTER returned recently from China. He spoke highly of Chinese Guerrillas, their hard scrap against the Japs. He praised the Communists and non-Communists alike. He advocated American intervention and aid to the Chinese, plus a flat embargo on Japan. It didn't sound like a peace oration. WEST talked more on the peace line, but not pacifist. He followed the Communist Party line exclusively. He disclosed that he has been shepherd of some seven churches in rural Clermont County, Ohio. (He is leaving for the South again.) He told Informant [redacted] that he is settling in Georgia -- where he came from -- near Macon. He will take up the religion business down there. He has not heard from HAROLD PREECE, with whom he roomed in Chicago, since the EPM meeting. (WEST leaves for Georgia tomorrow, November 12, 1940.) He lacks two fingers of the left hand, index and middle, and hides this disfigurement very cleverly."

There being no further investigation to be conducted in this Field Division, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Atlanta, Georgia

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT Atlanta, Georgia	DATE WHEN MADE 8-7-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-13-42	REPORT MADE BY A. M. GARBER
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/1/22 BY SP-1/CSC/RSK

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject attempted to make connections as school teacher at Ellijay, Ga. in 1931 or 1932, but school board failed to accept him. Has relatives in Ellijay, but no indication he actually lived there.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN E. KEEFE dated July 21, 1942 at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS: AT ELLIJAY, GEORGIA

Inquiry revealed that LEE REECE has been deceased for more than a year. However, by inquiry through Mr. BRYON PARKS, who is a leading citizen of the town and engaged in the hotel and grocery business, revealed that he remembered that subject about ten years ago, in 1931 or 1932, came to Ellijay and made application, desiring to become a teacher in the city and county schools, but the people of the vicinity had heard of his Communistic activities and the school board would not elect him to the position. So far as Mr. PARKS recalls, he only remained there a short while in an effort to obtain this position and when he saw that he was not going to be elected as a teacher, he left Ellijay.

Mr. PARKS further stated that subject had some relatives in the Ellijay vicinity, names unknown to him, and that about three months ago subject came to Ellijay on account of the death of one of these relatives, at which time he stopped at PARKS' grocery store, merely to speak to him. At this time Mr. PARKS noticed that subject had had an injury to his left hand and that one or two fingers were missing. PARKS stated further that this was the first he had seen of the subject since he left Ellijay approximately ten years ago, at which time he failed to obtain his position as a teacher.

PENDING

APPROVED AND FORWARDED J. H. Amalick	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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Atlanta, 100-559

b6  
b7C

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

- \* THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION, at Yale University, will interview [REDACTED] Divinity Student, if deemed advisable, for any information he may have concerning the subject in instant case.
- \* THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Atlanta, Georgia, will ascertain the holder of P. O. Box 1535, and if deemed advisable will contact this individual for any information he may have concerning the subject and his activities.
- \* At Cassville, Georgia, will continue to recontact S. M. PITTARD and A. J. MATHEWS for any information they may develop concerning the subject's present activities.

PENDING

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

3 NH File No. 100-3009 k

Made at: NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT	Date: 9/22/42	Period: 8/31/42	Made by: E. CHARLTON GRAVES, II
------------------------------------	------------------	--------------------	------------------------------------

Title: DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West	Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C
--	-------------------------------------

Synopsis: REV. GEORGE GREEN, Saybrook, Conn., stated that he believes subject follows Communist Party lines. GREEN attended Communist meeting in Cincinnati with subject. GREEN doesn't believe subject is dangerous as long as Russia is on the side of the Allies. Subject connected with the Highlander Folk School, a Communist school in Summerfield, Community of Monteagle, Tennessee.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated March 16, 1942 at Atlanta, Georgia; and report of Special Agent A. M. GARNER dated August 7, 1942, at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS: The REVEREND GEORGE L. GREEN, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, Saybrook, Connecticut, advised that he had worked with the subject for the last two summers in Ohio and Georgia. REVEREND GREEN stated that he had no definite proof that the subject was a Communist; in fact, the subject had said that he was not a Communist. However, the REVEREND GREEN said that it was his belief that the subject is a Communist and follows the party line. He stated that the subject had always been mixed up with the labor situation, and was involved in the labor difficulties at Harlan, Kentucky. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the subject had been connected in some way with the CIO. REVEREND GREEN stated that in his opinion the subject has a martyr complex and is very patriotic toward the laboring man. He stated that the subject believes that the laborers are the very backbone of the United States.

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DATE 3/20/02 BY SP/CSK/PSK

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100-3009

REVEREND GREEN stated that during the last Presidential election he had attended a Communist meeting in Cincinnati in the company of the subject. While at this meeting he had been introduced to a man by the name of BOB GUNKEL who was secretary of the Communist Party. The REVEREND GREEN stated that the meeting seemed innocent enough to him.

The REVEREND GREEN described the subject as a man who had worked himself up, who had studied hard, and who had traveled in Russia. He was the type that was always writing to Congressmen and the type who preaches very radical sermons. He stated that the subject knew about, or was connected with, the Communist magazine, "Friday."

The REVEREND GREEN stated that he was with the subject in Georgia when Germany marched on Russia. He stated that the subject did not know what to make of this situation. When the REVEREND GREEN got to Georgia the subject was printing pro-peace papers. However, the subject's attitude changed gradually and he stopped printing the pro-peace papers and had buried his printing press on his farm in northern Georgia. The REVEREND GREEN stated that in his belief the subject is very harmless as long as Russia is on the side of the Allies. If Russia were not on the side of the Allies he would consider the subject dangerous. The REVEREND GREEN stated that he was not in Georgia at the time of the peonage trials, but that he understood that the subject had tried to organize a movement to get CUNNINGHAM, the subject in the peonage case, put in jail. The REVEREND GREEN gave the reporting Agent a copy of the "Southern News Almanac" in which there appears an article written by the REVEREND DONALD L. WEST.

The REVEREND GREEN stated that MISS PATTY LEE COGHILL, 287 Fourth Avenue New York City, knows the subject very well, and was his secretary while he was in Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that the subject had been connected with the Highlander Folk School, a school that was associated with and sponsored by Communists. Communism appeared early among the supporters of the Highlander Folk School. MYLES HORTON was the first member of the staff, and was, on December 30, 1941, the head of that school. DONALD WEST was next after MYLES HORTON to come as a member of the Highlander Folk School staff. DON WEST came from Kenesaw, Georgia. He was educated at the Berry School in Georgia, according to [redacted] which was founded by MARGARET BERRY.

According to [redacted] it was generally known that DON WEST was a Communist and DON WEST did not deny it. DON WEST told him that he was a Communist. [redacted] said that after DON WEST left the Highlander Folk School he heard that he was put in jail, and for all [redacted] knows he might still be in jail. Apparently MYLES HORTON knew DON WEST before he came to Summerfield, for MYLES HORTON would introduce him around the community and said that he thought DON WEST would make a good partner.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

100-3009

ENCLOSURES

TO THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

One copy of "The Southern News Almanac" for Thursday,  
July 17, 1941.

100-3009

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

Will interview MISS PATTY LEE COGHILL, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City, if deemed advisable, for any information she may have concerning the subject in instant case.

100-3009

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informant mentioned in the report of E. CHARLTON GRAVES, II, dated September 22, 1942, at New Haven, Connecticut, is:

T-1 New Haven File No. 100-2498;  
A report by Special Agent J. J. LYNCH  
dated December 30, 1941 at Nashville,  
Tennessee, and entitled HIGHLANDER FOLK  
SCHOOL.

gs/pk

Date 20396

To: October 2, 1942  
 SAC, Atlanta

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Subject:  
 DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases;  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Information has been received from the Military Intelligence Service that subject West is reported to be sailing on a "trip card" with the National Maritime Union.

It is suggested that you check this information with your confidential sources and set out appropriate leads for the New York City Office if West is no longer residing within your field division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/11/02 BY SP-1 GSK/PBK

cc New York

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

44-21316-24

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 7 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

31 OCT 15 1942  
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LW:rb  
100-20396

Date:

November 5, 1942

To: SAC, Atlanta

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/11/02 BY SP/CSK/PK

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ Reference is made to the Bureau letter dated October 2, 1942.  
Mr. E. A. Tamm are instructed to advise the Bureau of the subject's present location.

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Coffey MAIL ROOM

Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_

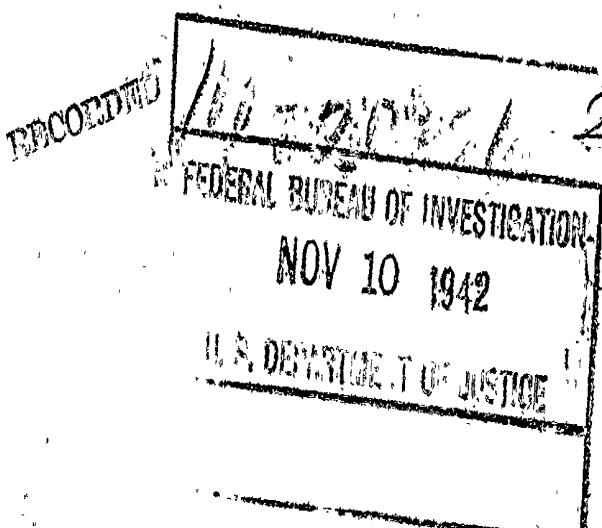
Mr. Kramer NOV 10 1942 P.M.

Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Quinn BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Nease U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 11/13/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/10/42	REPORT MADE BY MARCUS B. CALHOUN : JMK
TITLE ① DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C CUSTODIAL DETENTION		

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject presently residing Lula, Georgia and reportedly teaching school there.

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REFERENCE : Report of Special Agent A. M. GABER  
dated 8/7/42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS: AT CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA:

Mr. JACK MCCOY, Deputy Sheriff, Bartow County, advised upon interview that to his knowledge the subject was still residing on Route 3, Cartersville, Georgia, near Cassville, Georgia. MCCOY stated he had heard no reports which would indicate that the subject had been active in Communist work during the past six to eight months.

Mr. JOE NELSON, Postmaster, Cartersville, advised upon interview that he had recently received information to the effect that the subject is now residing in Lula, Georgia and teaching school there.

Mr. DEWEY GAULT, Rural Mail Carrier, Cartersville, Georgia, who serves Route 3, advised that the subject had left Route 3, Cartersville, around the first of September and that the subject's mother had subsequently advised him that the subject was teaching school in Lula. Mr. GAULT stated that he frequently picked up letters addressed to the subject at Lula, Georgia by his mother and that on several occasions mail addressed to the subject at Cartersville, Georgia had been forwarded to him at Lula by his mother.

Mr. GAULT stated that the subject was the son of the late J. O. WEST and Mrs. LILLIE E. WEST. He stated that J. O. WEST had been dead for

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Atlanta File No. 100-559.

approximately two years and that LILLIE E. WEST had recently married one H.H. AIKEN. Mr. GAULT could furnish no information as to the background or national tendencies of AIKEN.

Mr. GAULT advised that the subject had a sister named ANNE who is married to an individual named MIKE COSS, whom he believes to be a C.I.O. organizer in Birmingham, Alabama, and another sister named BELLE, who is married to an individual named BART LOGAN, who resides in High Point, North Carolina. Mr. GAULT stated that judging from letters written by Mrs. WEST, BELLE and BART LOGAN have been in High Point since last Spring. Mr. GAULT did not recall the street address of these individuals in High Point.

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Mr. GAULT advised that the subject had had another sister, now deceased, who was married to an individual named JOHN DUNN, who now resides in Jacksonville, Florida. He stated that JOHN DUNN [redacted]

[redacted] who is [redacted] with Mrs. LILLIE E. WEST, the subject's mother, at Route 3, Cartersville, Georgia.

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Mr. GAULT stated that the subject to his knowledge had one [redacted] who is [redacted] and who [redacted] from [redacted] at Cassville, Georgia in June, 1942. Mr. GAULT stated that [redacted] is now residing with BELLE and BART LOGAN in High Point, North Carolina.

For the information of the Charlotte Field Division, this office has been advised by the Birmingham Field Division that information was received through a confidential source to the effect that [redacted]

[redacted] Georgia, had corresponded with the New Age Publishers, Inc., New York City, publishers of the Weekly Review, the official organ of the Young Communist League, requesting that that organization give him information concerning subscriptions to the Weekly Review. Birmingham further advised that pursuant to a request of [redacted] New Age Publishers, Inc. had advised MARY SOUTHERN, Secretary of the Young Communist League for the State of Alabama, of [redacted] inquiry, and suggested that she endeavor to acquaint herself with [redacted] as a possible worker for the Young Communist League.

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Mr. GAULT stated that [redacted] had resided [redacted] during the Summer of 1942, but that he had not seemed to be particularly active in Communist work. He stated that the rumors had been that [redacted] was writing a book or some poems during the Summer of 1942.

Atlanta File No. 100-559.

AT CASSVILLE, GEORGIA:

Mrs. MELLIE SLOAN, Postmaster, advised upon interview that the subject receives his mail through the Post Office at Cartersville, Georgia, but that sometimes his family mails some letters at Cassville. She stated that the subject had been teaching school at Lula, Georgia since September, 1942. Mrs. SLOAN exhibited to this writer a letter addressed to DONALD L. WEST, Lula, Georgia, which she said had been mailed on November 10, 1942 by the subject's mother.

Mrs. SLOAN stated that the subject's mother had recently married a man named AIKEN, but she was unable to furnish any information concerning AIKEN'S background.

Mrs. SLOAN stated she recalled that WEST formerly corresponded frequently with one GEORGE G. WARD, who resides on Central Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. M. PITTMARD advised upon interview that he had been unable to develop any information concerning activities of WEST since he was last contacted by an Agent of this Office. He advised, however, that he believed WEST had moved from Cassville, Georgia, but was unable to furnish any information as to his present location.

- P E N D I N G -

Atlanta File No. 100-559.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Gainesville, Georgia will check the records of the Hall County Board of Education and verify the subject's employment as a school teacher at Lula, Georgia.

At Lula, Georgia will conduct appropriate investigation concerning the subject's activities at that point.

At Atlanta, Georgia will attempt to identify GEORGE G. WARD, Central Avenue, and conduct appropriate investigation concerning his activities.

- P E N D I N G -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-22129** HBB

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JAN 8 1943</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-21-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>GEORGE STUART HANDY</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C CUSTODIAL DETENTION</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

The indices of the New York Field Office fail to reflect any information concerning PATTY LEE COGHILL.

- R U C -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent E. CHARLTON GRAVES, II,  
Atlanta, Georgia, September 22, 1942.

**DETAILS:**

An examination of the indices of the New York City Field Division fails to reflect any information pertaining to PATTY LEE COGHILL. It is felt that the covering of the lead set out in the reference report to contact the above-mentioned PATTY LEE COGHILL, who resides at 287 Fourth Avenue, New York City, will be unproductive inasmuch as she is probably a member of the Communist Party and also because of her close association with the subject of this case while in Georgia.

Consequently, the lead set out in reference report will not be covered unless it is specifically requested by the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

*P. C. Handy*  
SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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Atlanta, 100-559

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION AT Lula, Georgia, will maintain contact with [redacted] and Mrs. MAUD IVEY, Lula School, to develop further information concerning subject's activities in and around Lula.

PENDING

Atlanta, 100-559

at 177 Elizabeth Street, N. E. The 1939, 1940, and 1941 Directories contained no record of GEORGE G. WARD. The 1942 City Directory for Atlanta listed a TEMPIE WARD as residing in Apartment #1, 186 Hurt Street, N. E.

Mrs. SALLIE R. SPINKS, 186 Hurt Street, N. E., advised on interview that she was the mother of TEMPIE WARD, the divorced wife of GEORGE GORDON WARD. She stated that her daughter had not lived with WARD for approximately four years. Mrs. SPINKS stated that GEORGE G. WARD had formerly been associated with a man named DONALD L. WEST but that she did not know just what the nature of their relationship was. She advised that her daughter, Mrs. TEMPIE WARD, was employed by the Atlanta Tuberculosis Association, 286 Forrest Avenue.

Mrs. TEMPIE WARD advised upon interview that her husband, GEORGE G. WARD, resided on Central Avenue in Atlanta and was employed by the WPA. She was unable to furnish his exact address. Mrs. WARD stated that GEORGE WARD had been born and reared in Gilmer County, Georgia, and that he had known DONALD L. WEST in Gilmer County. She advised that she knew her former husband had been associated with WEST but was unable to furnish information as to the nature of the association. She said that WARD had brought WEST to their home several times before they were divorced. She stated, however, that she had not had much conversation with WEST and could furnish no information regarding his nationalistic tendencies.

Mrs. WARD stated that she had two children and that her former husband came to see the children at her home approximately once each week.

Mrs. WARD stated that she had never heard WARD make any statement concerning WEST which would indicate that WEST was Communist, and that her former husband would not have anything to do with WEST if he were a Communist. She stated that WARD was definitely a loyal American, and expressed the opinion that he would be more than willing to furnish any information in his possession regarding the nationalistic tendencies of WEST.

Mr. B. L. PAYNE, employment manager of the WPA, 10 Forsyth Street Building, Atlanta, advised after a check of his records that GEORGE G. WARD, WPA #1160-29614, was presently employed by the WPA as a Cost and Materials clerk at Fort McPherson. He stated that his records indicated WARD had been born at Winterport, Georgia, on July 9, 1887.

GEORGE G. WARD, 642 Central Avenue, advised upon interview that he was acquainted with DONALD L. WEST, having known him for many years. He said that he and WEST were natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. WARD advised that he was the official historian for Gilmer County and that WEST, being an author, was interested in the history of Gilmer County. WARD advised that WEST had assisted him in gathering data and doing research work to write the history of Gilmer County.

WARD advised that approximately two years ago when WEST was

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preaching in a small church near Zebulon, Georgia, he had come to Atlanta to spend the night with him in his home on Central Avenue. WARD stated that when WEST left his residence after spending the night he had left two suitcases and asked WARD to take care of them for him. WARD stated that he had opened the suitcases after WEST had left to see what they contained and found that they were full of literature which he considered to be Communist literature. WARD advised that when WEST returned to his house in the afternoon he had told him that he was not interested in Communist literature and requested that he remove the suitcases and literature from his home at once, and stated that WEST had complied with this request.

GEORGE WARD stated that WEST was very radical in his views and very pro-labor. He advised that he himself was an open minded individual and had associated with WEST despite his radical ideas because he, WARD, believed that every man was entitled to his own political and religious views.

WARD was questioned concerning WEST's attitude toward the current war, particularly as to how he felt before and after the German invasion of Russia. He stated that he recalled that WEST had been a pacifist before the German invasion of Russia and that shortly thereafter WEST had changed and advocated U. S. intervention into the war. WARD advised that he recalled questioning WEST concerning this and stated that WEST had answered by saying that prior to Russia's involvement in the war the war had been an "imperialistic war" but that since Hitler had attacked Russia it was now a "worker's war." WARD advised further that at WEST's insistence he had subscribed to a paper known as the Southern News Almanac, published in Birmingham, Alabama. He stated that after receiving several copies of this newspaper he decided it was a very radical publication and probably of Communistic origin, so he had requested that WEST have his subscription cancelled. WARD advised that this was done.\*

WARD stated that WEST never actually told him that he was a Communist or a member of the Communist Party, and never tried to get him to join the Communist Party. He stated, however, that from his dealings and conversations with WEST he was definitely of the opinion that WEST was a Communist.

WARD stated that he last saw WEST in September of 1942 when WEST came to his home on Central Avenue and advised him that he was attempting to get a job as a school teacher at Lula, Georgia. WARD stated that WEST had tried to get him to write a letter of endorsement to the School Board of Hall County to assist him in getting this position. WARD advised that he was of the opinion that Communists had no place in public schools and, therefore, had refused to endorse WEST. He stated that he did not know whether or not WEST had been successful in securing this position because he had not seen him since that time.

WARD volunteered the information that he had attended no meetings of the Communist Party with WEST and had made no contributions to the Communist cause.

PENDING

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GA.**

FILE NO. **100-559**

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/22/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/6, 7/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN E. GILLIGAN</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, Was;</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY-C CUSTODIAL DETENTION</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject presently principal of school at Lula, Ga. No evidence of subversive activities revealed. Subject attends Baptist and Methodist churches and is quite prominent in activities of these churches. Subject very friendly toward Postmaster at Lula and is seen frequently with him. Subject states he has sister doing newspaper work in Russia. GEORGE G. KARD, former associate of subject, expressed opinion subject is a Communist, stating on one occasion two years ago subject left two suitcases full of Communist literature at his home. Advised subject was pacifist prior to German invasion of Russia and advocated U. S. intervention immediately following invasion.

-P-

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent MARCUS B. CAIRNOUN dated 11/13/42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

**DETAILS:** AT CALNEVILLE, GA.

Mr. W. L. WALKER, Superintendent of Schools, Hall County, advised the reporting agent that DONALD LEE WEST was presently principal of Lula School System at Lula, Georgia, having taken over his duties in September, 1942.

AT LULA, GA.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Off. Manager</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>12-511</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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[redacted] informed the agent that subject was quiet and kept quite a bit to himself. WEST, said [redacted] appears to be well educated but does not give the impression of being very congenial and has adopted an attitude of aloofness toward natives of Lula generally. [redacted] stated that WEST attends the Baptist Church in Lula and teaches Sunday School at that church, and on occasions subject is also known to attend the Methodist Church and teach Sunday School there. [redacted] advised the agent not to contact Postmaster JOHN E. JONES regarding subject inasmuch as WEST and JOHN E. JONES have become very friendly and are seen together quite a bit. [redacted] also noted that upon meeting the subject and JOHN E. JONES together they have a habit of cutting short their conversation upon the approach of a third party. [redacted] stated that he has often wondered why the subject came to Lula with all his high ideas and his wealth of b7D education.

WEST, said [redacted] told him that he was a "layman preacher." Because of this [redacted] has often induced subject to [redacted] at the Baptist Church. Regarding the theme of these talks [redacted] stated that he has never noticed any indication that subject has any foreign tendencies. These talks generally deal with local affairs in relation to the Baptist religion, stated [redacted].

Mrs. MAUD IVEY, of the Lula School, was mentioned by [redacted] as being reliable and trustworthy. Mrs. IVEY informed the agent that she has always regarded Mr. WEST as a very high type person and that never on any occasion has he attempted to indoctrinate anyone at the school or in Lula with any foreign philosophy. Mrs. IVEY stated that the subject on many occasion has stated that the people in democracies have the ideal communities where everyone works for a common cause and where mutual cooperation was the guiding force in the lives of the people. Mrs. IVEY also informed that WEST had told her he has a sister who is a newspaper woman in Russia. Mrs. IVEY stated that the subject is quite prominent in church and social affairs and that because of this she has never suspected WEST in the slightest. She also stated that the subject was very intimate with Postmaster JOHN E. JONES, and HUBERT TATE. TATE, incidentally, was also mentioned by [redacted] as being very friendly toward WEST.

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No attempt was made by the agent to make further contacts regarding the subject at this time inasmuch as [redacted] informed the agent that people in Lula are generally quite garrulous and that any news of an investigation regarding the subject would immediately be circulated around the community.

AT ATLANTA, GA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent MARCUS B. CALHOUN:

A check of the 1942 City Directory for Atlanta, and the current Telephone Directory, failed to reveal any GEORGE G. WARD. The 1936, 1937, and 1938 City Directories for Atlanta listed a GEORGE G. WARD, wife TEARIE E. WARD, residing

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

ATLA. FILE NO. 100-559

VG

REPORT MADE AT <u>Atlanta, Georgia.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>4-1-43</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>3-20-43</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>JOHN E. GILLIGAN.</u>
TITLE  <u>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases.</u>		CHARACTER OF CASE  <u>INTERNAL SECURITY - C, CUSTODIAL DETENTION.</u>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  Lula, Georgia, advises subject is now conducting radio program each Friday at 4:05 P.M. over station GGA, Gainesville, Georgia. Program consists of lecture by subject and student interviews.  advises subject giving many lectures throughout Hall County and adjoining counties on present war situation. Very anti-Nazi in these talks. Subject reported to make weekly trips to Atlanta. WEST developing close friendship with HUBERT TATE and JOHN E. JONES, both of Lula, Georgia.

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REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, Georgia, January 22, 1943.

DETAILS: AT LULA, GEORGIA.

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informed the writer that subsequent to last contact he had learned that subject was conducting radio programs for the children of his school over station GGA, Gainesville, Georgia, each Friday at 4:05 P.M. WEST, said  gives a short lecture on each one of these radio programs, the subject matter consisting primarily of the school children's duties in this present emergency, and a discussion of the war situation.  stated that WEST devotes much attention to the fact that the school children must prepare to take over control of the country at the close of the war. In the course of these lectures  stated subject deals with the position of the United States in the present emergency and WEST states that the United States must go all out to win this war.

In addition to these radio programs each Friday afternoon,  advised that WEST gives many lectures throughout Hall County and adjoining counties

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>John E. Gilligan</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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on various topics. In all of these talks, [redacted] states, WEST is very anti-Nazi and has stated that the United States must expend every effort to defeat Germany.

[redacted] went on to say that DONALD WEST makes a weekly trip to Atlanta, however, the purpose of this trip and his destination in Atlanta is unknown to [redacted]. In connection with this [redacted] stated that he would take special means to out where the subject goes when he visits Atlanta.

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[redacted] advised the writer that it would be unadvisable that further contact be made by this office with Mrs. MAUDE IVEY of the Lula School, who was contacted previously by the writer, because, said [redacted] [redacted] she has become quite friendly with the subject during recent months. WEST has developed a close friendship also with HUBERT TATE and JOHN E. JONES, Postmaster, both of Lula, Georgia.

Regarding TATE, [redacted] advised that this man is not too loyal to the United States, and that he might very easily adopt principles as taught by WEST.

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No further information was forthcoming from [redacted] but he stated that he would make it a point to keep in close contact with the subject in order to develop further information.

PENDING.

Atlanta, 100-559.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Lula, Georgia, will maintain contact with [redacted] in order to ascertain reason for subject's weekly trip to Atlanta, and who subject visits while in Atlanta. Also, will obtain any additional information [redacted] might develop.

PENDING.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 5/12/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/1/43	REPORT MADE BY JOHN E. GILLIGAN CM
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, With Aliases.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C CUSTODIAL DETENTION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject reportedly attending Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, every Saturday. [redacted] Lula, Georgia, states subject taking graduate course at University. Subject's activities at Lula remain unchanged. Leads set out.

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-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN dated 4/1/43 at Atlanta, Georgia.  
Letter from Atlanta to Bureau dated 4/21/43.  
Bureau File #100-20396.

DETAILS: On April 21, 1943, DONALD LEE WEST, Lula, Georgia, was designated a key figure in the Communist movement in the Atlanta Field Division and this information was submitted by letter to the Bureau.

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### AT LULA, GEORGIA

[redacted] advised the writer that the subject is still quite active in church and school affairs in Hall County. As mentioned in reference report, DONALD LEE WEST is actively engaged in giving lectures throughout the county. [redacted] also declared that WEST is still conducting a radio program each Friday afternoon at 4:05 P. M. over station WGGA. He also advised that he had received information to the effect that DONALD LEE WEST was presently attending Oglethorpe University in Atlanta each Saturday morning. [redacted] stated that he was unable to give any information as to what course subject is taking or what his plans are at the conclusion of the school year.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. R. Hammock</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
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[redacted] stated that DONALD LEE WEST has entrenched himself very well in the good favor of the residents of Lula. He stated that WEST, being very well educated, has made quite an impression on the people in and around Lula, who are mainly ignorant farm people.

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[redacted] stated that he had learned that one of the teachers at the Lula school where subject is principal might be able to furnish some background information regarding the subject but that as yet he has not been able to learn the name of this teacher. He stated that upon being contacted again by the writer he will have this information.

PENDING

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Atlanta, Georgia, at Oglethorpe University will make discreet inquiry as to subject's activities at that institution. Will discreetly endeavor to obtain information as to the associates of the subject at this school and the individual responsible for his attendance.

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At Lula, Georgia, will recontact [redacted] for any further information he may have as to subject's activities, and to ascertain the identity of the teacher who might be contacted relative to subject's activities.

PENDING

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ATL FILE NO. 100-552 CL

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA	7/19/43	6/30/43	JOHN E. GILLIGAN
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
DONALD E. WEST, with aliases		INFLUENT SECURITY - C; CUSTODIAL INVESTIGATION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject has been reappointed Principal of Lula-Selton School, Hall County. Subject still very active in civic, social and educational affairs in Hall County. Has become very intimate with HUBERT T. L. and JOHN L. JONES, both of Lula, Ga. Sheriff, Banks County, Ga., reports rumors spreading throughout the vicinity to the effect that subject is anti-American. Sheriff JONES advises that subject has made statements to effect that he has received education in Germany. Subject reportedly has farm in Cartersville, Ga.

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REMARKS: Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, 5/12/43.

DETAILS: AT LULA, GEORGIA.

[redacted] informed the writer that DONALD E. WEST has been reappointed Principal of the Lula-Selton Schools. [redacted] further advised that subject is no longer taking graduate courses at Morehouse University in Atlanta and is spending practically all his time in Hall and Banks County. [redacted] further stated that WEST has changed his residence to a site adjoining the school and that subsequent to WEST's change of residence, he has had quite a few visitors.

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[redacted] also advised that WEST still conducts his radio programs over Station WGST every Friday afternoon, Grimesville, Georgia. He also stated that WEST has, on quite a few occasions, requested that he, [redacted]

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Atlanta, 100-559.

give a talk on one of these programs. [ ] stated that WEST is still quite active in all local, civic, church and educational affairs and still spends practically all his time traveling Hall County and Banks County, giving lectures. However, Mr. JOHNSON was unable to give any information as to the subject matter of subject's talks, only that subject is known to be rabidly anti-Nazi. It was also ascertained from [ ] that WEST has developed quite a friendship for HUBERT TATE and JOHN E. JONES, the Postmaster. [ ] stated that on several occasions, WEST has had quite a few visitors and that on these occasions, JONES and TATE have always been present. [ ] stated that he has learned from WEST that WEST has a farm in Cartersville, Georgia, where he spends quite a bit of time preparing his lectures. WEST also advised [ ] that his mother is presently living on this farm in Cartersville, Georgia. b7D

AT HOMER, GEORGIA.

Sheriff FARRIS BREWER contacted the writer and advised that he had been contacted on several occasions by people living near the subject's home in Hall County and had been informed that the subject was regarded rather suspiciously because of the fact that he was heard to remark on several occasions that he had received the greater part of his education in Germany. Sheriff BREWER stated that RALPH WATERS, Principal of the Hickory Flat School, was very upset over subject's attitude towards the present emergency. Sheriff BREWER stated that WATERS could be contacted at Cornelia, Ga. and that he could give quite a bit of firsthand information regarding the subject. Sheriff BREWER stated that he had learned from an individual, whose identity he would not disclose, that the subject seemed to be more anti-Nazi than anti-American.

PENDING

Atlanta, 100-559.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Cornelia, Georgia, will contact RALPH WATERS and discreetly interview him as to his knowledge of subject's background and present activities.

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At Cartersville, Georgia, will take steps to develop suitable informants in this area in order to maintain coverage of subject's activity in this vicinity.

At Lula, Georgia, will maintain contact with [redacted] in order to develop any further information he may have as to subject's activities.

PENDING

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR  
HUGH B. COX, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I refer to Mr. L. M. C. Smith's memorandum to me dated June 28, 1943, which reviews the history, development, and meaning of the Special Case work and of the danger classifications that were made as a part of that work.

After full re-consideration of these individual danger classifications, I am satisfied that they serve no useful purpose. The detention of alien enemies is being dealt with under the procedures established by the Alien Enemy Control Unit. The Special Case procedure has been found to be valueless and is not used in that connection. There is no statutory authorization or other present justification for keeping a "custodial detention" list of citizens. The Department fulfills its proper functions by investigating the activities of persons who may have violated the law. It is not aided in this work by classifying persons as to dangerousness.

Apart from these general considerations, it is now clear to me that this classification system is inherently unreliable. The evidence used for the purpose of making the classifications was inadequate; the standards applied to the evidence for the purpose of making the classifications were defective; and finally, the notion that it is possible to make a valid determination as to how dangerous a person is in the abstract and without reference to time, environment, and other relevant circumstances, is impractical, unwise, and dangerous.

For the foregoing reasons I am satisfied that the adoption of this classification system was a mistake that should be rectified for the future. Accordingly, I direct that the classifications heretofore made should not be regarded as classifications of dangerousness or as a

100-20396

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determination of fact in any sense. In the future, they should not be used for any purpose whatsoever. Questions raised as to the status or activities of a particular person should be disposed of by consideration of all available information, but without reference to any classification heretofore made.

A copy of this memorandum should be placed in the file of each person who has hitherto been given a classification. In addition, each card upon which a classification appears should be stamped with the following language:

"THIS CLASSIFICATION IS UNRELIABLE. IT IS  
HEREBY CANCELLED, AND SHOULD NOT BE USED  
AS A DETERMINATION OF DANGEROUSNESS OR OF  
ANY OTHER FACT. (SEE MEMORANDUM OF JULY 16,  
1943 FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO HUGH B.  
COX AND J. EDGAR HOOVER)."

Attorney General

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

ATL FILE NO. **100-559 SL**

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/5/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/6, 7, 11/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ALTON M. BLANTON</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Reverend Donald L. West, Don West</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C.</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject continues to be active in civic and church work. Former teacher under subject advised he suspected subject of being Communist, though he cannot substantiate his suspicion.

- C -

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file 100-20396.  
Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, 7/9/43; Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, 5/12/43.

**DETAILS:** AT LULA, GEORGIA.

[redacted] advised that subject is still very active in civic and church affairs in this vicinity. The subject opened the Lula-Belton School, of which he is Principal, on August 30, 1943. Subject in the school auditorium, at the opening of the school, introduced one [redacted] whose [redacted] the school, and who fought in the Aleutian Islands in the present world conflict. WEST praised [redacted] actions in battle very highly and made a short talk pertaining to patriotism.

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[redacted] stated he would advise the Atlanta Field Office in the event WEST moved from Lula or engaged in any suspicious activities.

AT HOMER, GEORGIA.

CARL SEAGRAVES, Vocational Agricultural teacher at the Banks County High School, advised that he taught at the Lula-Belton School under

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>J.R.</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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Atlanta, 100-559.

the subject last year but he had not made any effort to return to that school this year, due to his dislike for the Principal. Mr. SEAGRAVES stated he had taught for eight consecutive years at this school prior to leaving on July 1, 1943. SEAGRAVES gave the following information concerning the subject:

Subject told him, while he was teaching under him, that he had traveled extensively in Russia and in Germany and Belgium; that subject was very high in his praise of Russia. Subject never told him that he attended school in either Berlin or Paris. It is his information that subject was born and reared in Gilmer County and attended Oglethorpe University. He was told by subject that the reason he came to the Lula-Belton School was in order to get information for a novel which he was writing concerning rural people. Subject was always desirous of getting before the public. He organized several "Victory Clubs" in the vicinity of Lula in January, 1943, but did not carry on the work which he started with the clubs.

SEAGRAVES advised that in his opinion, the subject was a Communist, though he had nothing to substantiate his suspicion.

AT CORNELIA, GEORGIA.

On September 7, 1943, RALPH W. WATERS, Principal of the Hickory Flat School, which is located approximately five miles east of Lula, gave the following information concerning the subject:

Subject came to his school in March, 1943 and organized a Victory Garden Club, however, he made only one other trip to this vicinity and the club never did get well under way. Subject told him that he attended Vanderbilt College, Nashville, Tennessee and had taken a course at the University of Berlin and at the University of Paris in either 1938 or 1939. This informant further advised he could get more information concerning the educational background of the subject, at which time he would get in touch with an Agent of this office and pass his findings on to him.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent MARCUS B. CALHOUN:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Mrs. RUTH FERGUSON, Registrar, Oglethorpe University, stated that her records indicated that DONALD L. WEST of Lula, Georgia enrolled in that institution during the Fall term of 1942 for courses in Adult Education. She stated that

Atlanta, 100-559.

this work was being done on a Master's Degree in Education. Mrs. FERGUSON advised that WEST had taken courses under Professor MORRIS HARDWICK and Dr. H. J. GERTNER.

Dr. H. J. GERTNER advised that DONALD L. WEST had taken a course in Adult Education under him at Oglethorpe University during the Fall term of 1942 and Spring term of 1943. He described WEST as being highly intelligent and a very attentive pupil, stating that WEST had never made any statement in his presence to indicate that he was anything other than a loyal American citizen. Dr. GERTNER stated that WEST had commuted to school from Lula, Georgia, where he was employed as Principal in a high school and that he had not been particularly friendly with anyone in his class. Dr. GERTNER stated that he had probably had more conversations with WEST than anyone else at Oglethorpe University and advised that he considered him to be a good American.

In view of the fact that there is no indication that this subject is presently engaged in Communist activity, this case is being marked closed on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- CLOSED -

RECORDED

WNR:mva  
100-20396-31

Date: August 2, 1943

To: SAC, Atlanta

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DONALD LEE WEST, was;  
CUSTODIAL DETENTION (C).

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent John E. Gilligan, dated July 19, 1943, at Atlanta, Georgia, in the above-captioned case.

A review of the file in this matter fails to disclose that the subject is presently active in the Communist Party or that he is considered to be a key figure in your Division. It would appear, therefore, that it is unnecessary to keep this case pending.

It is suggested that after you establish reliable informants to report any further pertinent activities on the part of the subject that you consider the advisability of closing this case.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 6

\* AUG 3 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-559** EBG

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8-3-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12-30-43; 6-19; 7-10, 13, 26-44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ALTON M. BLANTON</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, was</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **Confidential Informant** advised this subject called upon her on 12-29-43 and advised he had seen ROBERT F. HALL from Chattanooga, Tennessee and HALL instructed him to get information about a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia. Subject advised informant this spy is FRANK McALLISTER of Atlanta, Georgia. Subject further advised that he was teaching school in Lula, Georgia and intended to run for Congress at the next election; he stated he is married, has two children and that his entire family is Communist. Subject further advised that he believed he had been successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party at Lula. Investigation reflects that subject was candidate for Hall County, Georgia representative to the State Legislature in the State Primary July 4, 1944 but was defeated. Investigation Lula, Georgia reflects subject is still very active in civic, social and educational affairs. Case placed in pending inactive status.

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Class. & Date Rec'd. **12/1/44**  
Reason-ECM II, 1-1-44  
Date of Service **3/1/42**

- P - \*

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent ALTON M. BLANTON dated October 5, 1943 at Atlanta, Georgia.

Letter from the Bureau to the Atlanta Field Division dated February 21, 1944.

Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN dated July 19, 1943 at Atlanta, Georgia.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>J. J. Holloway</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED <b>11/22/58 44/16</b>	COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>CCIA 9-2 CCIA 9-1 10-20-44 Lma/mhs</b>	100-20396-33	RECORDED & INDEXED <b>1</b>
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Atlanta, File 100-559

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS:

II.

On December 30, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, contacted this office and gave the following information to Special Agent MARCUS B. CALHOUN: (S)

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Subject, Iula, Georgia, called upon her on the night of December 9, 1943 at 9:30 P.M. and stated that he had gone to Atlanta, Georgia from Monteagle, Tennessee where he had spent some time with HAROLD PREACH. Subject advised that he had seen ROBERT F. HALL in Chattanooga, Tennessee and that HALL had instructed him to [redacted] the [redacted] and furnish information about a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia. (It is to be noted that Robert F. Hall is the former Secretary of the Communist Party, District #17). Subject stated that the Communist Party had determined that one FRANK McALLISTER of Atlanta, Georgia was a spy who pretended to be interested in the party work but who in reality was trying to get information about the party. The subject stated that he had recently received a letter from FRANK McALLISTER wherein McALLISTER had questioned him as to his activities but that he had not given McALLISTER any information. WEST further advised that he wished to speak to some of the Communist leaders in Atlanta concerning this matter and specifically requesting that the informant contact NATHAN KATZ and WHITMAN DAY and ask them to call at the meeting place. KATZ and DAY were contacted along with JOSEPH A. MORELAND, W. B. JENKISS and GERTRUDE DIAMOND and that all these individuals came to a meeting. The subject informed the individuals that the party was suspicious of McALLISTER; that it was highly possible that McALLISTER might try to get some information from them for the FBI and that they were to give him no information whatsoever. WEST stated that people like McALLISTER were the main cause of the Communist Party in the South going underground at the present time. He stated that the Communist Party had a person who was watching McALLISTER. He further advised that JOSEPHINE WILKINS who works for the Citizens Fact-Finding Committee in the Forsyth Street Building was very friendly with McALLISTER and was watching every move he makes. He stated that as long as he felt that JOSEPHINE was his friend the Communist Party did not have anything to worry about. The Informant stated that subject was questioned as to what connection WILKINS had with the Communist Party and he stated that she was a good Communist. (S)

WHITMAN DAY questioned subject as to whether or not FRANK McALLISTER had any party connections and subject replied, "We won't discuss that now". He was questioned as to why the Party was suspicious of McALLISTER and stated that McALLISTER had recently gotten a very fine office in a downtown building and that the party believed he was being backed by someone other than the person he worked for. He stated it appeared McALLISTER was only trying to get information concerning the "Gentile" group in Atlanta but that he felt sure that McALLISTER would stop at nothing once he found out anything concerning the members of other Communist Party groups. (S)

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Confidential Informant [redacted] further advised that the meeting referred to above subject stated that at the present time he is doing research work because he intended to run for Congress from his Congressional district in the next election. He stated he was making a speech over the radio from Gainesville, Georgia each Friday night and in this way was gaining considerable publicity which he believed would aid in his campaign. He stated he had been actively campaigning for a nine months' school year for the colored schools and had been successful in obtaining a nine months' school year for them. He advised that he was teaching school in Lula, Georgia and that he came to Atlanta every two weeks to attend classes at Georgia Tech. He advised that he is married, has two children and that his entire family is Communist. He stated he has a sister who has just returned from the Soviet Union and is presently in New York City where she is writing a book. The subject said that due to the fact that he is principal of the school at Lula and exerted a great deal of influence in that community, he believed he would be successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party there. ~~SECRET~~

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AT GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA:

On July 13, 1944, Sheriff W. A. CROWE advised that subject was a candidate for Hall County, Georgia representative in the State Legislature in the State Primary on July 4, 1944 but was defeated. Sheriff CROWE delivered to the reporting agent some of the subject's campaign literature which has a picture of the subject on it. Copies of this campaign literature are being retained in the files of this office. CROWE stated that he would closely follow the activities of the subject and report any activities inimical to the interest of this country.

AT LULA, GEORGIA:

[redacted] gave the following information:

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The subject's closest friends in this community are JOHN BANKS, Chairman of the School Board, who ran for the Office of Sheriff of Hall County, Georgia in October, 1943 but was defeated, and JOHN E. JONES, Postmaster. (in view of the close friendship between the subject and the Postmaster, a mail cover is not being placed on the subject). There is no evidence of the subject engaging in any subversive activities. Subject is still very active in civic, social and educational affairs. He [redacted] and [redacted] on many occasions.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] in this community. [redacted] stated that it is his information that the subject has endeavored to enlist in the service as a Chaplain, but has been turned down due to not being a ordained minister. [redacted] advised that closely following the activities of the subject, he will report anything which he feels to be of value to the writer.

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Atlanta, File 100-559

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AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

Confidential Informant T-1 advised this office that it has been ascertained that a communication has been received by the Communist headquarters at Birmingham, Alabama, from the "Daily Worker Press Club", Branch record card No. 33895 dated February 29, 1944, containing the name of J. A. WALKER, Lula, Georgia. (S)

AT LULA, GEORGIA:

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[redacted] was recontacted and advised that to his knowledge there was no individual named J. A. WALKER residing at Lula. [redacted] stated that he would make a diligent investigation endeavoring to ascertain if it is possible there is a J. A. WALKER living in this vicinity and if so will notify the reporting agent. (S)

Inasmuch as arrangements have been made for the following of the subject's activities, this case is being placed in a pending inactive status upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

P E N D I N G

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~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, File 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

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THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION:

AT LULA, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time re-contact [redacted]  
[redacted] for any further information which he has to report on the subject.

AT GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time re-contact Sheriff CROWE and determine if he has any further information relative to the subject.

P E N D I N G

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, File 100-559

~~SECRET~~

SOURCE OF INFORMATION SHEET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Confidential Informant T-1 referred to in this report is a highly confidential source of information of the Birmingham Field Division.

~~(S)~~

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



WY  
JGR  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice



Atlanta, Georgia  
August 4, 1944

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Director, FBI

①  
Re: DONALD LEE WEST, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ALTON M. BIANTON dated August 3, 1944 in which the status of the case is placed as "pending inactive".

This case is being placed in a pending inactive status due to the fact that it is felt sufficient informants have been developed to follow and report the activities of the subject. These informants will be re-contacted within a reasonable length of time for any further information which they may have concerning the activities of the subject.

Very truly yours,

*F. C. Holloman*  
F. C. Holloman  
Special Agent in Charge.

AMB:BG  
File 100-559

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DATE 3/11/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI  
FROM: SAC, Atlanta  
SUBJECT: DONALD E. WEST, with alias  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: February 9, 1945

S

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ALTON M. BLANTON dated February 8, 1945.

The status of the case is placed as "Pending Inactive."

This case is being placed in a pending inactive status due to the fact that it is felt sufficient coverage of the activities of the subject has been developed. These informants will be recontacted within a reasonable length of time for any further information they may have concerning the activities of the subject.

100-559  
AMB:SWS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/22 BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 2/8/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/12, 1944; 10/5, 28/44; 1/24/45	REPORT MADE BY ALTON M. BLANTON SWS
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, With alias		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WALDEMAR BRUNO HILLE, subject of Knoxville file #100-1799 and who, according to Knoxville Office is familiar with Communist matters, visited subject for three or four months beginning the first of 1944. A book of poems subject wrote entitled "Toil and Hunger" directed to share croppers, textile employees, and miners, is in school library, Lula, Georgia, where subject is superintendent. Subject defeated for president of Hall County, Ga. Teachers' Association. Superintendent of Education advised subject's un-American tendencies known to Board of Education; subject probably will not be re-elected superintendent of Lula Schools at expiration of present school year. Subject visited at New York City during Christmas holidays. Subject has publicly denounced Communism in Lula, Georgia where he is very active in civic, religious, and educational affairs. Case placed in pending inactive status.

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REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent ALTON M. BLANTON dated 8/3/44 Atlanta, Ga.

DETAILS:

On October 28, 1944, confidential informant T-1 advised that WALDEMAR BRUNO HILLE had visited in the home of the subject for three or four months beginning the first of 1944. Records in this office reflect that HILLE is subject of Knoxville, Tennessee file #100-1788, Atlanta file #100-3923 and according to the Knoxville Office, is familiar with Communist matters. A review of Atlanta

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100-559  
Atlanta

file #100-3923 reflects that HILLE worked in a textile mill at New Holland, Georgia from January 11, 1944 to March 4, 1944 at which time he quit of his own accord, allegedly to go to New York to live with his sister.

Confidential Informant T-1 displayed to the reporting agent a book of poems subject wrote entitled "Toil and Hunger", which is directed to sharecroppers, textile employees, and miners. This informant further advised that this book of poems is kept in the school library at Lula, Georgia where the subject is superintendent. A review of this book of poems reflected that it was printed by the Hagglund Press at San Benito, Texas, 1940. The introduction which is written by JESSE STUART has this to say in the last paragraph "this man is not confined to the mountains. He has been a hitchhiker and globe trotter. After thumbing his way over the United States, he went abroad and pumped a bicycle over Germany, England, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and other countries. Few men of his age have had the varied experience of DON WEST."

This informant further advised that R. E. JONES, Postmaster at Lula, Georgia, is the closest friend subject has in this community. For this reason, no mail cover has been placed with the Postmaster on subject's mail. This informant further advised that the subject visited in New York City during the Christmas holidays, 1944, for approximately two weeks and upon his return stated that he went to New York to see about writing a book. Subject did not reveal the name of the book which he intended to write. This informant further advised that subject who is very active in civic, religious, and educational affairs and in the vicinity of Lula, Georgia, has publicly denounced Communism, in this area. He stated he had heard the subject denounce Communism in the pulpit of the Lula Baptist Church and from the stage in the auditorium of the Lula School. This informant was of the opinion that subject's action in denouncing Communism was intended to throw any of the local people off who might think he was engaged in any un-American tendencies.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On October 5, 1944, B. RHETT TURNIPSEED, Personnel Director, Pacolet Mfg. Company, New Holland Mill, advised that he was recently elected President of the Hall County, Georgia Teachers' Association. He stated at the time the election the subject was his opponent and from all appearances had a lot of supporters among the school teachers in the vicinity of Lula, Georgia. He stated, however, that outside the vicinity of Lula, Georgia, the subject had very few supporters and from what he had heard various teachers say, whose names he did not remember,

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Atlanta

the subject is losing his popularity among the school teachers. TURNIPSEED said he had heard several teachers say that they did not feel the subject was a loyal American citizen although they did not have anything to substantiate their feeling. TURNIPSEED stated that to his knowledge H. GRADY JARRARD, superintendent of education, was bitterly opposed to the subject and felt that the subject was engaged in un-American activities.

On the same date, JARRARD was contacted and gave the following information. He is convinced from information which he has received from the community where subject formerly taught and lived in the vicinity of Meansville, Georgia and from the subject's activities since coming to Hall County, Georgia, that he, the subject, is not a loyal American citizen, and is probably engaged in un-American activities, probably being active in Communist meetings. JARRARD stated that he had no concrete evidence to substantiate this belief. JARRARD stated that the subject's un-American tendencies were known to the Hall County Board of Education and that in all probability the subject would not be reelected as Superintendent of Lula Schools at the expiration of the present school year. JARRARD stated that subject told him he visited in New York City during the Christmas holidays from December 23, 1944 to January 1, 1945. Subject did not say the purpose of his visit to New York.

On August 12, 1944, [redacted] of Meansville, Georgia called at the Atlanta Field Division and furnished Assistant Agent in Charge A. L. MEANS, with pamphlets which he stated were received in the vicinity of Meansville from the subject. He also advised that he [redacted]

[redacted] from HUBERT O. TATE, P. O. Box 131, Lula, Georgia, at which time Mr. TATE requested information concerning the subject. These pamphlets consist of the February, March, and June, 1944 issues of the "Southern Patriot" published at Nashville, Tennessee, edited by JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI and the pamphlet entitled "There are Things to Do" by LILLIAN E. SMITH. All the pamphlets dealt in substance with the racial situation in the South and advocated no race discrimination and an equal opportunity to all people regardless of race, color, or creed. These pamphlets are being retained in the files of this office.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On August 19, 1944, R. C. McCLURE, Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court, advised that J. E. JONES, Postmaster, Lula, Georgia, contacted his office and requested him to have an FBI agent come to see him at Lula in the very near future.

At Lula, Georgia

On August 19, 1944, J. E. JONES was contacted, at which time he gave the following information:

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Atlanta

He stated he had been Postmaster for nineteen years and that during this time he had made several enemies in this community. For the past twelve to eighteen months, enemies of his had been trying to oust the subject as superintendent of education at the Lula, Belton School. JONES stated he and the subject are very close friends and, in his opinion, the subject is a splendid superintendent of education and "a 100% American citizen." JONES stated that HUBERT O. TATE had been the leader of the movement to oust the subject as superintendent there. He advised TATE had put out information that the subject was wanted by the FBI. JONES stated for this reason he desired to contact the FBI and ascertain if this was true. JONES was advised by the reporting agent that any information contained in the FBI files is strictly confidential and the Attorney General has held that the information cannot be released.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On January 24, 1945, Sheriff W. A. "Bill" CROW, advised that the subject is not as active in civic, religious, and educational affairs as he was approximately one year ago and that, in his opinion, he is losing considerable strength, Hall County, Georgia. CROW produced a letter to the subject dated April 29, 1944 from the CIO Political Action, Southeastern Region, 75 Ivy Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, signed GEORGE MITCHELL, Regional Director, endorsing "GOOLSBY for the U. S. Senate against GEORGE, the incumbent."

CROW stated that in his opinion neither J. E. JONES, Postmaster, Lula, Georgia, nor HUBERT O. TATE, School Official, Lula, Georgia, should be contacted relative to subject inasmuch as JONES is the subject's best friend and TATE is a very indiscreet and unpopular politician. CROW stated that TATE probably could not be confided in. CROW assured the writer that he was following subject's activities very closely and he would report his findings to an agent of the FBI from time to time.

Confidential Informant T-1 also assured the writer that he would follow and report activities of the subject as Special Agent of the FBI from time to time.

In view of the arrangements for the following of the subject's activities, this case is being placed in a pending inactive status upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

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100-559  
Atlanta

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

ATLANTA

At Gainesville, Georgia

Will, within a reasonable length of time, re-contact Sheriff W. A. BILL CROW and ascertain if he has any further information relative to the activities of the subject.

At Lula, Georgia

Will within a reasonable length of time, re-contact confidential informant T-1 for any further information which he has relative to the activities of the subject.

100-559  
Atlanta

Confidential Informant T-1 referred to in  
this report is [redacted] at  
Lula, Georgia with whom subject [redacted]

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

FILE NO. **100-559**

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7-20-45</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7-4, 12-1945</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>GEORGE P. DILLARD VHM</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, was, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject reported to be presently attending New York University, New York City, under Rosenwald Scholarship.

- P -

**REFERENCES:** Report of Special Agent ALTON H. BLANTON, Atlanta, dated February 8, 1945.

**DETAILS:** At GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA:

Sheriff W. A. CRONE, Hall County, Gainesville, Georgia, advised that subject is presently attending New York University, New York City under a Rosenwald Scholarship. Subject is considered to be a key figure in Communist activities in the Atlanta Field Division and made the statement that he was successful in organizing a branch of the Communist Party at Lula, Georgia.

PENDING

*1cc 2/13  
3/11/82*  
**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED**  
**HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**  
**DATE 3/11/02 BY SP-1 CSK/PSK**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Roswell E. Smith</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED: <i>10-11-1</i>	10396-37	RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	JUL 25 1945 <i>221</i>	
5 Bureau 1 G2 2 New York 3 Atlanta <i>221</i>	COPY IN FILE <i>221</i>	

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At NEW YORK CITY, will endeavor to ascertain whether subject is presently attending New York University and if possible ascertain his activities while there.

ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

\* At GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time, recontact Sheriff W. A. CROWE and ascertain if he has any further information relative to the activities of the subject.

At LULA, GEORGIA, will recontact confidential informant T-1 mentioned in referenced report.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT <b>ATLANTA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1-16-46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/20/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LESTER G. DAVIS :hs</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject reported to be presently attending Columbia University, NYC, instead of New York University. Subject not reelected as superintendent of public schools Lula, Ga.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent GEORGE P. DILLARD, Atlanta, 7/20/45.

DETAILS: W. A. CROW, Sheriff, Hall County, Gainesville, Georgia, advised that subject was not reelected as superintendent of public schools at Lula, Georgia, and that it was his information from members of the school board that subject would not at any time in the future be reelected because of his Communistic activities.

T-1 advised that subject was presently attending Columbia University in New York City instead of New York University as previously reported. He further advised that he had overheard J. E. JONES, Postmaster, Lula, Georgia, who is a close friend of subject's, make the statement that subject would attend the University of Georgia upon completing his work at Columbia University. T-1 advised that no member of subject's family was presently residing in Lula, Georgia, but it was believed that subject would return to Lula upon completion of his studies at Columbia University and the University of Georgia.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/02 BY SP2/CS/MSK**

- PENDING -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>by [initials]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED <i>1/23/10/46</i>	COPIES OF THIS REPORT <i>1/23/10/46</i>	<b>101-20396-38</b> <i>E B</i> <i>JAN 18 1946</i> <i>RECORDED</i> <i>EX-40</i>	
5 - Bureau 2 - New York 3 - Atlanta  <i>OK</i>	<i>RE-DR 3-27-46 HRIN</i>		

58 MAR 28 1946

100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NY

Will endeavor to ascertain whether subject is presently attending Columbia University, and, if possible, ascertain his Communistic activities while there.

100-559

b7D

T-1:-

 Iula, Georgia

whose name is kept confidential  
at his own request.

~~ADVICE TO THE AGENTES  
AND SUPERINTENDENTS  
ADVISED BY THE SAC~~

Amended L/S  
7/2/82 DR

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY FILE NO. 100-22129 AG

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/1/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/4;2/19/46	REPORT MADE BY J. WESLEY DOMINEAU
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C		

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject attended Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC, from September, 1945, to January, 1946, pursuing courses in Guided Professional Development and university seminar on rural life. Stated he would return to Georgia on completion of studies. While in NY contacted EARL BROWDER and other known Communists. ~~✓~~

— RUC —

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent Lester G. Davis, Atlanta,  
1/16/46.

Report of Special Agent George P. Dillard, Atlanta,  
7/20/45.

## DETAILS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent Donald E. Shannon, who contacted Teachers College at Columbia University and reviewed subject's file:

According to this file, subject entered this school in September, 1945, and advised that he resided at 427 Furnald Hall on the campus of Columbia University. He is registered for the winter season from September, 1945 to January 31, 1946. He is pursuing the following courses: Guided Professional Development and a university seminar on rural life. In his application WEST stated he was born June 6, 1908, at Cantsay, Georgia, and that his permanent residence is Lula, Georgia.

He listed as references a Dr. ALVA W. TAYLOR, 101 Bowring Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, and a MR. N. E. JONES,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED BY	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED	100-20396-39	RECORDED	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		INDEXED	
5 - Bureau 3 - Atlanta 2 - New York	CE DR 6-17-96 KRM		
F. B. I. JUN 17 1946			

~~SECRET~~  
~~CLASSIFIED~~

Postmaster, Lula, Georgia. He stated he attended the following schools: Lincoln Memorial University, Hannegate, Tennessee, 1925 to 1929, where he received an A.B. Degree; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, from 1929 to 1932, receiving a Degree of Bachelor of Divinity; Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1937 to 1944, receiving a Masters Degree; University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 1944 to 1944, taking special courses; Summer School at the University of Chicago in 1945; and the International Peoples College, Elsinore, Denmark, 1933 to 1934, pursuing special courses.

He listed the following employment: 1944 Pastor of a church at Meansville, Georgia; 1942 to 1945, superintendent of Lula School, Lula, Georgia.

The following information was obtained from the files of the New York Field Division:

On January 3, 1946, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that one CEDRIC BELFRAGE, a Communist known to this office, was to meet the subject at 55 West 42 Street, New York, on January 4, 1946, at 2 p.m. On January 4, 1946, a physical surveillance conducted on CEDRIC BELFRAGE by Special Agents Francis J. Gallant, Walter H. Nelson, and Edward W. Dooley reflected that the subject, accompanied by BELFRAGE, was observed to enter Room 702, 55 West 42 Street, New York. The door of the same is marked Distributors Guide and is known to be the office occupied by EARL BROWDER, former head of the Communist Party. Later the subject and BELFRAGE, accompanied by EARL BROWDER, were observed leaving this building. ~~(S)~~

On January 6, 1946, Confidential Informant T-2 advised that the subject contacted one BETTY HART, secretary to DR. WEINSTEIN, a Communist known to this office. A tentative appointment was made for the subject at 9:30 a.m. January 15, 1946. At that time subject stated he was leaving New York City in the latter part of January, 1946. ~~(S)~~

On January 7, 1946, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that MOLLY BELFRAGE, wife of CEDRIC BELFRAGE, discussed the impending appearance of the subject before group meetings. At that time MOLLY stated subject was on sabbatical leave from the school at Lula, Georgia, where he was Superintendent of Schools. She also stated that the subject was of original Georgia background and intended returning to Georgia to run for Congress against Congressman WOODS of the reorganized Dies Committee. ~~(S)~~

On January 21, 1946, Confidential Informant T-2 advised that while subject was at the office of Dr. A. B. WEINSTEIN, one FRIEDA, whose identity is unknown, advised that she would meet him for lunch that day. ~~(S)~~

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

~~SECRET~~  
~~CLASSIFIED~~

NY 100-22129

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent J. Wesley Domineau dated March 1, 1946, at New York, are identified as follows:

T-1

NYT 352, whose identity is known to the Bureau

T-2

NYT 350, whose identity is known to the Bureau

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA	8-3-46	7-3-46	CLEMENT L. McGOWAN VH
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
DONALD LEE WEST, was.		INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: *Re: Donald Lee West*  
Subject born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908. Subject's parents and grand parents also natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. Subject's wife reported to be from Bethel, Ohio.

3-46

P

REFERENCES: Letter to all SAC(s) Number 28 dated March 12, 1946. Report of Special Agent LESTER G. DAVIS, Atlanta, Georgia, dated January 16, 1946.

DETAILS: A review of the files of the Atlanta Field Division reflects that the subject DONALD LEE WEST was born at Cartecay, Georgia June 6, 1908. Subject is the son of OLIVER WEST and LILLIE MULKEY. WEST's parents were natives of Gilmer County, Georgia.

*Kim Mulkey*  
KIM MULKEY, the father of LILLIE MULKEY, was also a native of Gilmer County, Georgia.

The files of the Atlanta Field Division further reflect the subject's wife is from Bethel, Ohio. Information as to her background is not available in the files of the Atlanta Field Division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/02 BY SP-1 CS/PLK

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		100-20396-40	RECORDED
5 Bureau 2 Cincinnati - 100-28200 FILE # 11		I B II 1 AUG 3 1946	INDEXED
			EX-2
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Atlanta, 100-559

LEADS

CINCINNATI:

At Bethel, Ohio, will check the records of the local board in an effort to locate the Selective Service file of the subject to obtain information regarding the subject and also the time and place of subject's marriage.

In the event subject's Selective Service file is located will obtain appropriate handwriting specimens and forward the material to the Bureau in accordance with Bureau instructions.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 3, 1948

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

There is being forwarded herewith a photograph of the subject who  
is considered a key figure in the Atlanta Field Division

Enclosure

100-559

CLM:vh

EV-50

RECORDED  
INDEXED

100-20396  
FEB 11  
1 AUG 7 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/02 BY SP/CSK/PSK

7 AUG 3 1948

STANDARD

ENCLOSURE

100

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/02 BY SP/ASK/OK

DONALD LEE WEST, was,  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU - photo of subject.  
Atlanta File 100-559

100-265-111

## THE SCRAPPER



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT  
D. L. West

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1-217  
2-27

2

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-2820

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CINCINNATI, OHIO	1-2-47	11-4-46	L. ALFRED OBENSHAIN - DWH
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
DONALD LEE WEST with aliases		INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject registered October 16, 1940, Local Board #2, Clermont County, Ohio, order #1091, at which time resided at Bethel, Ohio. Gave his employer as Christian Fellowship Parish, Hamersville, Ohio. Selective Service file reflects subject married MABEL ADAMS of Middlesboro, Kentucky. File reflects also living with this wife on May 12, 1943, and had two children. Last address January 22, 1944, Lula Hall County, Georgia, Box 64. Handwriting specimen enclosed.

- RUC -



Report of Special Agent CLEMENT L. McGOWAN,  
Atlanta, Georgia, dated August 3, 1946.

DETAILS: AT BATAVIA, OHIO

Mrs. ALLENE LIVINGOOD, Clerk at Draft Board #2, Batavia, Ohio, exhibited to the writer the file on DONALD LEE WEST which reflects that he was born June 6, 1908, at Cartecay, Georgia. He is registered with Local Draft Board #2 at Clermont County and his order number is 1091. He gave as his address Lula Hall County, Georgia, Box 64. This was on January 22, 1944, where he was supposed to be teaching school.

The file reflects that he married MABEL ADAMS of Middlesboro, Kentucky, on December 14, 1928. At the time of the execution of the registrant's affidavit of family status and dependents, he stated that he had been married on December 14, 1928, and that he and his wife had lived together ever since. This form was dated May 12, 1943 and it listed his

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/12/02 BY SP/CS/ak

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

7-2034

Cin. 100-2820

April 6, 1938. He listed the following relatives: HEDDIE GRACE WEST, born

Mother, Mrs. LILY E. WEST, Cartersville, Georgia  
Brother, Ft. McGlellan, Alabama, and R. #3, Cartersville, Georgia  
Sister, Mrs. BELIE LOGAN, High Point, North Carolina  
Sister, Mrs. DELIA ROSS, Birmingham, Alabama  
Sister, Mrs. ELSIE ROSS, New York, New York  
Wife's sister, ADDIE ADAMS, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky

The file reflects that WEST received the following education:

Lincoln Memorial University where he states he received an A.B. Degree  
Vanderbilt Theological College, 2 years  
International Peoples College, Denmark, where he studied cooperatives for one year  
Olgethorpe University where he studied literature for three months

His last classification was 4-D on May 17, 1944. At this time his address was Route #3, Cartersville, Georgia. He registered on October 16, 1940, at Bethel, Ohio. He gave Mrs. MABEL ADAMS WEST, his wife, as the person who would always know his whereabouts and his employer as the Christian Fellowship Parish, Hamersville, Ohio, at the time of his registration.

Mrs. LIVINGOOD, Clerk at the Board, turned over to the writer a letter received by the Board from DONALD WEST in which he states that he overlooked listing his wife and two children in sending into the Board Selective Service blanks. Mrs. LIVINGOOD said this letter need not be returned to the Board. It is accordingly being forwarded to the Atlanta Office and can be sent to the Bureau at the discretion of the Atlanta Office if specimens have not already been forwarded.

ENCLOSURE TO ATLANTA

Specimen of subject's handwriting.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DOJ:GJ

Re: Atlanta file #100-959  
RONALD L. REED, Esq;  
FEDERAL SECURITY-C.

INSPECTOR DAUGHERTY: The subject is one of four key figures in the Atlanta Field Division. It is noted that his address has not been verified since January, when he was at Columbia University in New York. It is understood that he is back in Georgia. His present address should be obtained and furnished to the Bureau for correction of the Security Index Card.

SAC KELLY: The above matter has been called to the attention of the Agent to whom this case is assigned and effort will be made immediately to obtain the subject's present address and same furnished to the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/02 BY SP/1 GSK/PSK

100-20391-

INSPECTOR ALPORT  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INSPECTOR DAUGHERTY  
MARCH 24, 1946

# The Cry For Justice In the South Today

LODS OF SOUTHERN EARTH, by Don West (Boni and Gaer, \$2.50).

By SAMUEL SILEN

Don West loves the South, and because he loves it he is filled with bitter grief and burning anger. He speaks for the poor people of the South, Negro and white, the people with the "gaunt eyes," the people who hate Bilbo and Talmadge with a consuming hate that few of us up North can rival.

He is the poet of these people, singing with terrific power of their hunger and their hope, their fury which has not achieved full consciousness. It is of their debt-ridden lives that he sings, the children with rickets and flux, Of strange fruit and poisoned trees, of death in the mills.

Don West is not merely a poet of pain, but of struggle. The tragedy here is too deep for tears. Nor is there even a tiny corner here for merely benevolent liberalism which some aristocratic southern writers have lately made popular. Nor is there any patience here with the professional Dixie Land Agrarians:

"In books so learned they have writ,  
Praise to a system dead and gone.  
And like old Buddha, here they sit,  
Proclaiming how they mope alone."

No, this is the authentic voice of real people, authentic in its lyric simplicity, which is something quite different from an artificially assumed folksiness. It has the beauty of a genuine identification with life.

His is the cry for justice. He sees himself as The Agitator, the restless voice of toiling millions stirring and stumbling toward a new world. And he knows that the overworked and underfed cannot achieve freedom unless the brothers in oppression unite, unless toiling white makes common cause with toiling black.

There is agony in his pages, but there is also the firmness of spirit that comes from undivided commitment to struggle. West's poems are not slogans, they are sharp images torn out of intimate memory of dull, hopeless faces, of bent backs, of numbing terror. One feels here "The spell of living people."

These poems speak of a South whose anger is "slow, groaning" but which is born of toil and hunger and which is "Tearing at a million hearts." It is the South that Talmadge and Bilbo and their northern financial backers are seeking to hold back by more hunger, more terror. It is the South that we will be hearing from ever more insistently as the CIO campaign develops.

Don West expresses the hope that his poems will "help to kindle little sparks that will grow into big flames." It will not be his fault if the sparks are not kindled.

It is good to greet this first volume by a man whose separately published poems many of us have admired for a long time. At 36, Don West is an important force in the creation of a people's literature not only for the South, but of the whole nation. Quarrel as one may with his repetition of images, and the uneven quality of some of his free verse forms, there unmistakably is a voice that achieves individuality through its intense expression of a collective experience.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/82 BY SP-1 GSK/DSK

100-20396-5  
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87 SEP 25 1946

This is a clipping from  
page 8 sec. ~~Index~~ of

THE WORKER

Date 8-25-46

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Government

# The Toil And Hunger I've Seen'

By DON WEST

ONCE upon a time, not too long ago, authors wrote mainly about kings and nobles—the aristocracy. Many stories and poems were filled with debauchery and intrigues. Writers occupied themselves in turning out tales about the purity of lovely ladies and the daring of gallant gentlemen who never did a useful day's work in their lives.

The fact that systems of kings and nobles, of aristocratic ladies and useless gentlemen, were always reared upon the misery of masses of peasants, slaves, or workers was carefully omitted from most books. The idea that these same peasants, slaves, or workers might themselves be fit material for literature would have been heresy.

You may think this a strange sort of way to begin an introduction to a group of poems. You may be one of those Americans who say you don't like poetry anyhow. No one can blame you for that. I've often felt that way, too. Maybe it's because too many poets write in the old tradition.

Using an obscure and "subtle" private language; they write only for the little clique of the "highly literate" elite. But in spite of their high and mighty intellectual snobbery, one finds them, after all, concerned mostly with minor themes.

Such literary gentlemen, writing only for the "elite" ten percent, spurn the "crude" and "vulgar" masses. They still have their eyes full of star dust. They see neither the dirt and misery nor the beauty and heroism of common folk life.

## Poetry With Roots

You say you want a poem with roots in the earth; a poem that finds beauty in the lives of common people, and perhaps a poem that may sometimes show the reasons for the heartache and sorrow of the plain folks and sometimes point the way ahead. I don't blame you. I sort of feel that way too.

Does this sound like a strange notion about poetry? Maybe it is. Some people say I have strange notions anyhow. I don't know. I've been a preacher, and I've preached the workingman Jesus, who had some strange notions himself about the poor and the rich and the slaves. I've been a coal miner in Kentucky's Appalachians and a textile worker in Carolina. I've been a radio commentator in Georgia and a deck hand on a Mississippi River steamboat. I've been a sailor, a farm owner, and farmer. I am now a school superintendent. And I've wondered why it always seems that the folks who work less get more and those who work more get less.

Our people, the real southern mass majority of whites, are the ones the Negroes were taught to call "pore white trash." And we, in turn, were taught the hateful word "nigger." Nice little trick, isn't it? Hitler used it too. And it is still being used today, by the whites from the big houses who engineer lynchings and make it seem that the responsibility is the white workers'...

My real education has been beaten into me by the everlasting toil and hunger I've seen, by the struggles in textile and coal mining centers, where our people were rolled down from the hills with fair promises of a better life.

This is a clipping from  
page 8 section of  
THE WORKER

Date 8-25-46

Clipped at the seat of  
Government

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI Attention: FBI Laboratory DATE: January 15, 1947  
 FROM : SAC, Atlanta  
 SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
 Bureau File No. 100-20396

In accordance with Bureau instructions, there is being transmitted herewith, a specimen of the handwriting of above named subject who is a key figure in the Atlanta Field Division.

For the information of the Bureau, this specimen was obtained from local board No. 2, Batavia, Ohio and the date of the communication is unknown. Clerk of the local board has advised that the letter need not be returned.

Enclosure

CIM:efh  
 100-559

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/1/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

Q.I.R. 5

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 32 JAN 20

EX-25

NO ANS. NEC.  
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DATE 06-11-2010

END FIELDS 101-100  
100 BY ROUTING  
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DATE *5/25/60* OR

~~February 10, 1941~~

STRE

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

In view of information recently obtained reflecting unusual Communist Party activities of Donald Lee West in conjunction with Homer Bates Chase, Communist Party organizer for the States of Georgia and Florida, and Nathan Ross, who is in charge of the southern organization for the Communist Party, your permission is requested to place a microphone-telephone surveillance on the home of Donald Lee West, Oglethorpe University, New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University, Georgia, telephone Cherokee 6407. 

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-PCIM II, 1-2, 4, 2  
Date of Review 4/15/92

HWS: PES

olson  
A. Tamm  
leegg  
lavin  
latt  
nichols  
rosen  
tracy  
carson  
egan  
jurnea  
harbo  
dendon  
pennington  
neese  
landy

## SCENE

SECRET

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

~~SECRET~~

Post Office Box 1850

Atlanta 1, Georgia

February 15, 1962

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director, FBI

Re: DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are two copies of a recommendation for installation of Mic-Tel surveillance of instant matter. (S)

In the event the Bureau approves installation of instant surveillance, it is anticipated that the services of two of the Special Employees recently assigned to the Atlanta Field Division will be utilized part-time in this connection. (S)

Inasmuch as HOMER BATES/CHASE, Communist Party organizer for the states of Georgia and Florida, is presently in Atlanta for an undetermined length of time and is in constant contact with WEST and in view of the further fact that it is reported that NATHAN ROSS, who is in charge of the southern organization for the CP, USA and a member of the National Committee, is reported to be presently visiting WEST, it is requested that the Bureau teletype the Atlanta Field Division its desires in this matter at the earliest possible date. (S)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCM II, 1-24-22  
Date of Review 4/15/62 4/15/62

GPD:hs  
66-698 (S)

Very truly yours,

  
EDWIN J. FOLTZ  
SAC

Encl.

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&  
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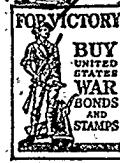
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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 06-09-2010

FD-142



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~SECRET~~

Post Office Box 1850  
Atlanta 1, Georgia  
February 15, 1947

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. 66-698

RECOMMENDATION FOR INSTALLATION OF TECHNICAL  
OR MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE S

RE: Title DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases

Character of Case INTERNAL SECURITY-C  
Field Office Atlanta

Symbol Number

Type of Surveillance (Technical or  
Microphone) Mic-Tel

1. Name and address of subject: DONALD LEE WEST,  
Oglethorpe University,  
New Hermance Road,  
Oglethorpe University, Georgia

2. Location of technical operation: Cherokee 6407  
Atlanta Field Division

3. Other technical surveillances on same subject:  
None

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF *Class*  
DATE *5/25/83* *S*

4. Cost and manpower involved:

It has been determined that it will be necessary for this office to lease from the Southern Bell Telephone Company one pair of wires to be used in connection with this installation. The rental on this pair of wires is \$5 per year per quarter of mile. It is estimated that this installation will require the leasing of approximately ten miles of wire at an estimated total cost of \$17 per month. It is believed that in order to operate this installation properly from a surveillance standpoint, the services of at least two employees of the Atlanta Field Division will be required.

5. Adequacy of security:

It is anticipated that this installation will be made in cooperation with Southern Bell Telephone Company contacts who have proved extremely cooperative and reliable in the past. The telephone company will run an extra pair of wires from the connector block of the instrument involved to an unused pair

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of wires which will lead to the main frame of the telephone company exchange and will be subsequently strapped to a pair of wires which will be brought into the terminal box housing the wire being used by the Atlanta Field Division. The wires leading from the main frame to the Atlanta Field Division terminal box will be leased by this office under an assumed name and fictitious address. It is anticipated that thereafter recording machines will be set up in the room presently being used as a mimeograph and addressograph room in the Atlanta Field Division. It should be noted that this room has a wooden door with a glass panel opening into a public hall on the Fifth Floor of the Healey Building. (Continued on Page 5)

6. Type of case involved:

This is an Internal Security case involving DONALD LEE WEST, who is a key figure in the Communist Party activities in the Atlanta Field Division. He is a teacher at Oglethorpe University. HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party organizer for the states of Georgia and Florida, has been in constant touch with WEST and has had lengthy visits with him, a recent visit lasting from approximately 11:00 PM until 5:00 AM the following morning. WEST has also been seen in contact with CHASE securing printed literature which apparently was being distributed by the Communist Party. He has also been seen in conversation with CHASE and NATHAN ROSS, who is (Continued on Page 5)

7. Connection or status of subject in the case:

It is believed that WEST is working directly with the CP, USA in the south and is believed to be the principal key figure at the present time in Communist activities in the vicinity of Atlanta.

8. Specific information being sought:

It is believed that information concerning the plans of the CP, USA in the south, as well as the identities of individuals connected with the movement in this area may be determined through this surveillance.

9. Reasons for believing the specific information will be obtained by the technical surveillance:

It has been noted that frequent conferences have been held between WEST and known members of the Communist movement and it is believed that from this surveillance it may be possible to determine the matters discussed at these conferences, as well as the identities of individuals contacted from this residence.

10. Importance of case and subject:

At the present time this matter is being given preferred investigative attention of the Atlanta Field Division, inasmuch as there is an indication that the Communist Party is becoming very active in this area at the present time.

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11. Possibilities of obtaining desired information by other means (Explain in detail):

It does not appear that there is a possibility of obtaining the desired information by any other means, inasmuch as it is impossible to gain access to these conferences through any other manner. It is noted that speeches or discussions made at these conferences, believed held in the WEST home, may be picked up through the means of the Mic-Telephone combination.

12. Risks of detection involved:

The risk of detection in this instance is believed to be very nominal. As related hereinbefore, the Southern Bell Telephone Company has been very cooperative in the past and will run an extra set of wires from the connector block of the instrument involved to an unused pair of wires leading to the main frame of the telephone exchange, where they will be strapped onto a pair of wires leading to the terminal box of the Atlanta Office. This set of wires will be leased by the Atlanta Field Division under an assumed name and fictitious address.

13. Probable length of technical surveillance:

Ninety days

14. Request made for technical surveillance by any outside agency (name specific official, title and agency):

None

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15. Remarks:

No additional remarks

(S)

16. Recommendation of Assistant Director: In view of the information contained in the prior paragraphs, I am of the opinion that a microphone-telephone surveillance should be established upon the telephone number of Donald Lee West.

(S)

17. Recommendation of Assistants to the Director: I recommend this microphone-telephone surveillance be established as requested.

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5. (cont'd)

To increase the security, it is anticipated that a solid oak door will be installed to replace this glass panel door. The new door will be equipped with a sliding metal bolt and will be kept locked at all times. It appears that the oak door can be switched from some other location in the building without cost to the Bureau.

6. (cont'd)

in charge of the southern organization of the party, is a member of the National Committee of the CP, USA, is a brother-in-law of WEST and reportedly stops with him in Atlanta.

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